NEWS / A2

INXS front man redefines role of a rock star

ENTERTAINMENT /E6

Tita Muñoz: RP's first multimedia star

METRO / A17

2 accused in Alicia Ramos slay case found guilty; third accused acquitted

BPI 155
FOCUSING ON YOUR FUTURE.
SEE PANORAMIC SECTION-F

In wars, quest for media balance also a battlefield

PARTICULARLY VEXING FOR MANY AMERICAN news organizations is the struggle to determine how and in what proportion images of civilian dead and injured should be displayed in their coverage, especially when one side's casualties greatly surpass the other.

"Still photos and TV images are what sway people," said Jane Arraf, the Edward R. Murrow press

IN WARS/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, August 15, 2006 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 248 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Stressed out? Expert recommends singing

I DID IT MY WAYYY!

LONDON—STRESSED-OUT Londoners are being offered a new way to unwind—singing lessons.

Professionally trained singer Karin Hochapfel runs stress-busting classes for city high fliers that use a

STRESSED/ A4

Fragile peace in Lebanon

War leaves 1,250 dead but yields no victors

BEIRUT, LEBANON—Guns fell silent across Lebanon on Monday after a ceasefire took effect to end 34 days of war between Israel and Hezbollah that killed more than 1,250 people and wounded thousands.

Diplomats expect the truce to be fragile—tens of thousands of Israeli troops remain in southern Lebanon, and they are not expected to withdraw fully until international peacekeepers arrive.

Two shooting incidents soon after the ceasefire went into force underlined how shaky the peace was.

In the first incident, a Hezbollah fighter was shot dead after he fired on Israeli troops in southwest Lebanon, Israel's Army Radio said. Hours later, Israeli troops shot and possibly killed a Hezbollah militant aiming his rifle at them.

Israeli air strikes and artillery fire continued until just a few minutes before the truce took effect at 6 a.m. (1 p.m., Manila time).

Then there was silence.

At least 38 Lebanese civilians and four soldiers were killed on the last day of fighting as Israeli forces pursued their battle to wipe out Hezbollah until the last minute.

The chaos of the battlefield yielded no clear victor.

Despite a desperate 11th-hour push by Israel, it appeared that the might of the Israeli military, with its fearsome array of war jets, smart bombs, tanks and drones had been fought to a virtual standstill by a small group of Hezbollah guerrillas.

How did that happen?

It wasn't quite the David vs Goliath conflict it seemed on the surface, analysts said.

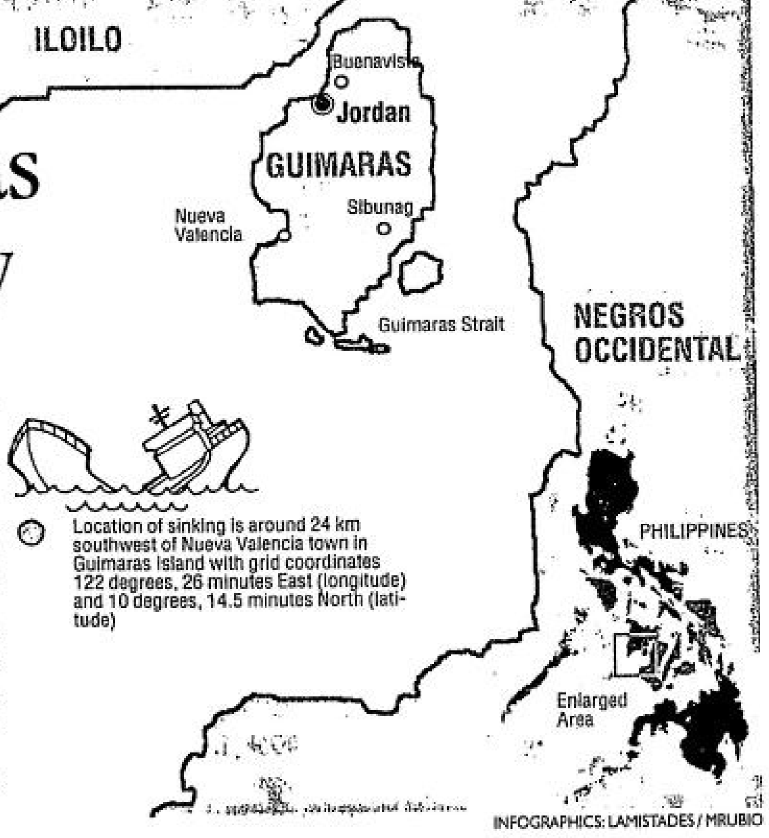
As Israel troops moved in, they encountered a highly trained, deeply motivated foe, armed with sophisticated weapons and tactics and a real home-turf advantage.

Israel tried to counter this with

FRAGILE/ A8

ARNOLD ALMACEN, INQUIRER VISAYAS

BUNKER oil from a sunken tanker off Guimaras has reached mangrove areas in this coastal village of Alman Norte, Barangay La Paz, in the island-province's Nueva Valencia town.



Location of sinking is around 24 km southwest of Nueva Valencia town in Guimaras Island with grid coordinates 122 degrees, 26 minutes East (longitude) and 10 degrees, 14.5 minutes North (latitude)

INFOGRAPHICS: LAMISTADES / MRUBIO

Oil spill off Guimaras could reach Boracay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas
and Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD is racing against time to control what its officials say could be the worst spill in the country after an oil tanker carrying 2 million liters of bunker fuel sank on Friday off Guimaras Island.

If not contained, the spill could reach Boracay Island, a popular tourist destination famed for its white sand and clear waters, according to a PCG official.

"I can't rule out the possibility that Boracay would be affected. It would depend on whether the oil further spreads and on the direction of the wind and current," said Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Coyme, the Coast Guard spokesperson.

The spill already covered 24 sq km as of yesterday and was moving along the coast of Nueva Valencia town (pop: 34,000) in Guimaras.

OIL SPILL/ A4

'The most dangerous day in this war'

By Walden Bello
Contributor

(Editor's Note: The writer is a member of the 12-person Civil Society-Parliamentary Peace Mission that is currently in Lebanon. He is a professor of sociology at the University of the Philippines and the executive director of the research and advocacy institute Focus on the Global South, based in Bangkok, Thailand.)

BEIRUT, LEBANON—IT IS 6:17 A.M. here and Monday, Aug. 14. In less than an hour, the ceasefire is due to take effect.

I get awakened by two massive blasts. They seemed very close, but the sounds were probably coming from southern Beirut, and I am in central Beirut.

The Israelis are bombing up till the last minute. They are unbelievable.

But I am getting ahead of my story.

Yesterday, we were in south Beirut. About two hours after we left, we heard blasts coming from Israeli shells falling on the Shiite neighborhoods in the area.

"We could have been there," Rep. Mujib Hataman of Mindanao said quietly.

The images of flattened buildings, still smoldering ruins and crushed, dust-covered cars are still fresh in our minds—the teddy bear, the child stroller, and the books I saw as I clambered over the ruins of a 12-story building at the neighborhood of Haret Hreik.

"Today is the most dangerous day in this war," the restaurant manager told us as the delegation sat down for lunch, thankful for our good luck but also very angry at the Israelis.

THE MOST/ A6

5 dead as landslide sweeps bus into ravine

By Michael Sarcauga
and Hernan P. de la Cruz
Inquirer Mindanao

MUD LOOSENED BY HEAVY rains from a mountain swept an air-conditioned bus in Aurora town in Zamboanga del Sur yesterday, killing five passengers.

A pregnant woman was also killed when a mudslide swept a makeshift chapel at dawn yesterday in another part of the town. The woman and her family had sought shelter in the chapel in Barangay Anonang, according to Aurora Mayor Enrique Cabahug.

Cabahug said mud carried the Mindanao Rural Transit bus 100 meters from the highway into a ravine. The vehicle was one of three buses stranded on the highway because of an earlier landslide.

Eight people have died in floods and mudslides triggered by rains in Zamboanga del Sur and Lanao del Norte over the past week. Thousands were forced to abandon their homes.

Floods also hit Negros Occidental.

Portions of the national highway connecting Lanao del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur remained impassable at press time.

Ruby Sevilla, 46, said she and other passengers were waiting for local public works personnel to clear the road when they heard a roaring sound. Then, mud came flowing from the side of the mountain in the village of Ro-

5 DEAD/ A5

₱500-M repatriation fund pushed

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

DESPITE THE EMPTY RELOCATION centers in Lebanon and a UN-enforced ceasefire, President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration is bent on forcing the evacuation of Filipino workers there and seeking a P500-million repatriation fund from Congress.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr., Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Marianito Roque impressed this resolve during yesterday's resumption of the Senate finance committee's hearing on the fund and a P46.4-billion supplemental budget for 2006.

They said officials were unsure as to how long the ceasefire would last and that fighting could flare up anew if there were violations of the truce.

Besides, Roque said, Philippine Embassy officials wanted to take advantage of the ceasefire to rescue Filipino workers from abusive employers and those who

P500-M/ A8

Impeach case backed by 7 boxes of evidence

By Michael Lim Ubac

NO WAY, JOSÉ.

That's how the House majority is treating seven boxes purportedly containing evidence that opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said they would present in their second attempt to impeach her.

With great fanfare, the House minority that last year bungled a similar attempt to unseat Ms Arroyo announced it would try and open the boxes at the start today of the hearing of the justice committee on the opposition's impeachment complaint this year.

"We have the truth, and we want to expose it to the full light of day," said Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano.

The committee will decide whether the impeachment complaint has substance that will elevate it to full trial in the Senate.

"This being a numbers game, I'm not sure whether we will find substance [in the complaint]," said Rep. Salacnib Baterina, indicating that the opposition initiative, backed by civilians also seeking Ms Arroyo's ouster, will

IMPEACH/ A6

PROIMPEACHMENT lawmakers present the boxes of evidence to support their case against President Macapagal-Arroyo in a press conference at the Batasan.

JOAN BONDOC

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Central and Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience monsoon rains. Rest of Luzon and Visayas will have cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms, while Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/14/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

'Don't link terror bill to killings'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Luige A. del Puerto

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID TIME WAS running out on the passage of the antiterrorism bill and chided the opposition in the Senate for using the bill as a bargaining chip.

"We may be losing time against terror amidst the resurgence of global threats. Must we wait until the next bomb explodes before we act on this vital piece of legislation," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"The passage of the antiterrorism law should not be subjected to partisan bargaining as it involves a fight against evil that calls for collective, willful action."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had said the upper chamber would only heed President Macapagal-Arroyo's appeal to pass the antiterror bill only if political killings were stopped.

The President reiterated the need to pass a law which would give more teeth to laws against terrorists in the wake of the foiled plot to bomb US-bound aircraft from the UK.

The antiterror bill was supposed to have been enacted before the end of last year.

"We assure one and all that the government is doing all it can to bring the killers of political activists and journalists to justice. Using this issue as a bargaining chip for action on the antiterror bill is malicious as it insinuates that the government itself has a hand on the said killings when in fact it has not," Bunye said.

The country's top cop yesterday also asked senators not to link the passage of the antiterror bill to the solution of the political killings.

"The passage of the antiterror bill should not be equated or should not be related to the solution of the killings," Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar Calderon said.

"These (two) are different," he said, lamenting that the Philippines remains one of the countries without an antiterror bill.

PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., head of Task Force Usig which is investigating the wave of murders, said not all suspects in the killings had come from the ranks of the police and military.

Some suspects were communist guerrillas, he pointed out.

In a statement, Pimentel had said an antiterror bill was urgently needed but only when "the government shows its sincerity and determination in solving and preventing killings" attributed to security forces of government.

But police have claimed that the killings could be the result of a purge within the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

But militants and independent observers said the style of the killings, their brazenness, and the targeting of persons espousing a program identified withe CPP indicated they might be part of the Arroyo regime's national security policy.

Over 200 activists have been murdered since Ms Arroyo assumed power in 2001. The human rights group Karapatan placed the number at more than 700.

In an interview, Calderon said he has given commanders in areas where there have been killings seven weeks to solve the cases.

"We are already very late (in passing an anti-terror law)," Razon lamented, adding that police are prosecuting terrorists "using outmoded laws."

Under the proposed antiterror bill, a suspect could be detained even without a warrant for a longer period than currently allowed by law.

Police also want to be allowed to wiretap and place a suspect under surveillance.

The bill would also impose stiffer penalties on convicted terrorists, such as life imprisonment or death, and allow authorities to freeze assets of suspected terrorist organizations.

'Even rock stars could use their fame to change the world'

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

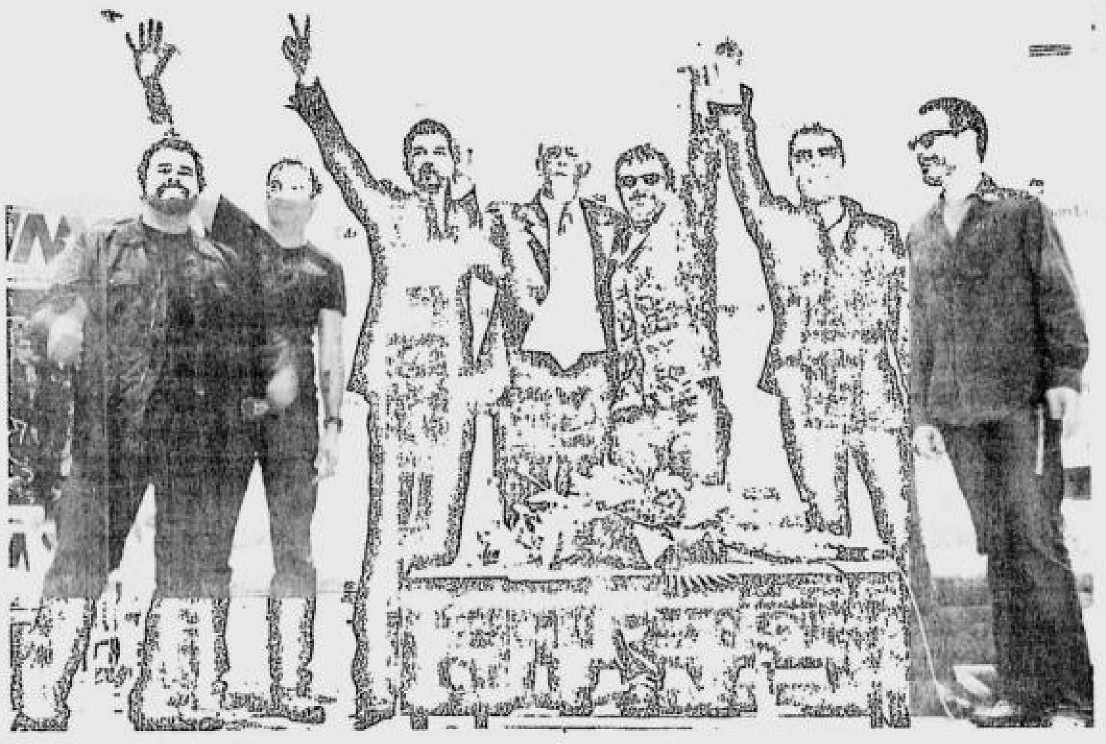
'A REAL ROCK STAR IS ONE who's socially aware [and cautious about] the things that come out of his mouth and records because they affect the minds, hearts, opinions and decisions of the youth," said JD Fortune, new front man of INXS.

The Australian group, arguably the biggest rock band in the world in the late 1980s (their sixth album "Kick," released in 1987, crossed into the mainstream and sold nearly 10 million copies worldwide), is in the country for a single gig tonight at the Araneta Coliseum. Manila is the first stop in the Asian leg of the band's first world tour in nine years, to promote "Switch," their first album in eight years.

Fortune, 31, had replaced the charismatic singer/songwriter Michael Hutchence who died in 1997, an unconfirmed suicide.

During the band's brief meeting with the press yesterday at the Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City, Fortune urged, "Don't change those TV channels ... if [the news is] depressing. Pay attention ...and make yourself count. If you do that, there's a chance for those bad stuff to go away. [In that way] we could all be rock stars."

Fortune, a Canadian born in Ontario, won an 11-week worldwide reality talent search on television last year mounted precisely to find INXS a new lead singer. (The band had gone on a hiatus following the death of Hutchence.) Among the top three finalists of the show, "Rock Star: INXS" was Filipino-Australian stage actor MiG Ayesa, who is also performing tonight as the band's special guest.



FAME AND FORTUNE. JD Fortune (right hand in a peace sign), new front man of the Australian band INXS, says anyone can be a rock star but some will always be more famous than others. The group, the world's biggest rock band in the late 1980s, is in Manila for a single gig tonight. With JD, from left: Andrew Farriss, Gary Beers, Tim Farriss, Jon Farris and Kirk Pengilly. ROMY HOMILLADA

At the press con, Fortune was asked about rock stars who lived fast and died young, apparent victims of the trappings and pressures of celebrity—among them Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison and the original rock star, Elvis Presley.

Fortune said it shouldn't be the rule. "Even rock stars could use their fame to change the world," he said, and cited U2 front man Bono, who convinced First World leaders to write off poor countries' debts. This, and Bono's other socially relevant activities helped transform the image of rock stars, Fortune said.

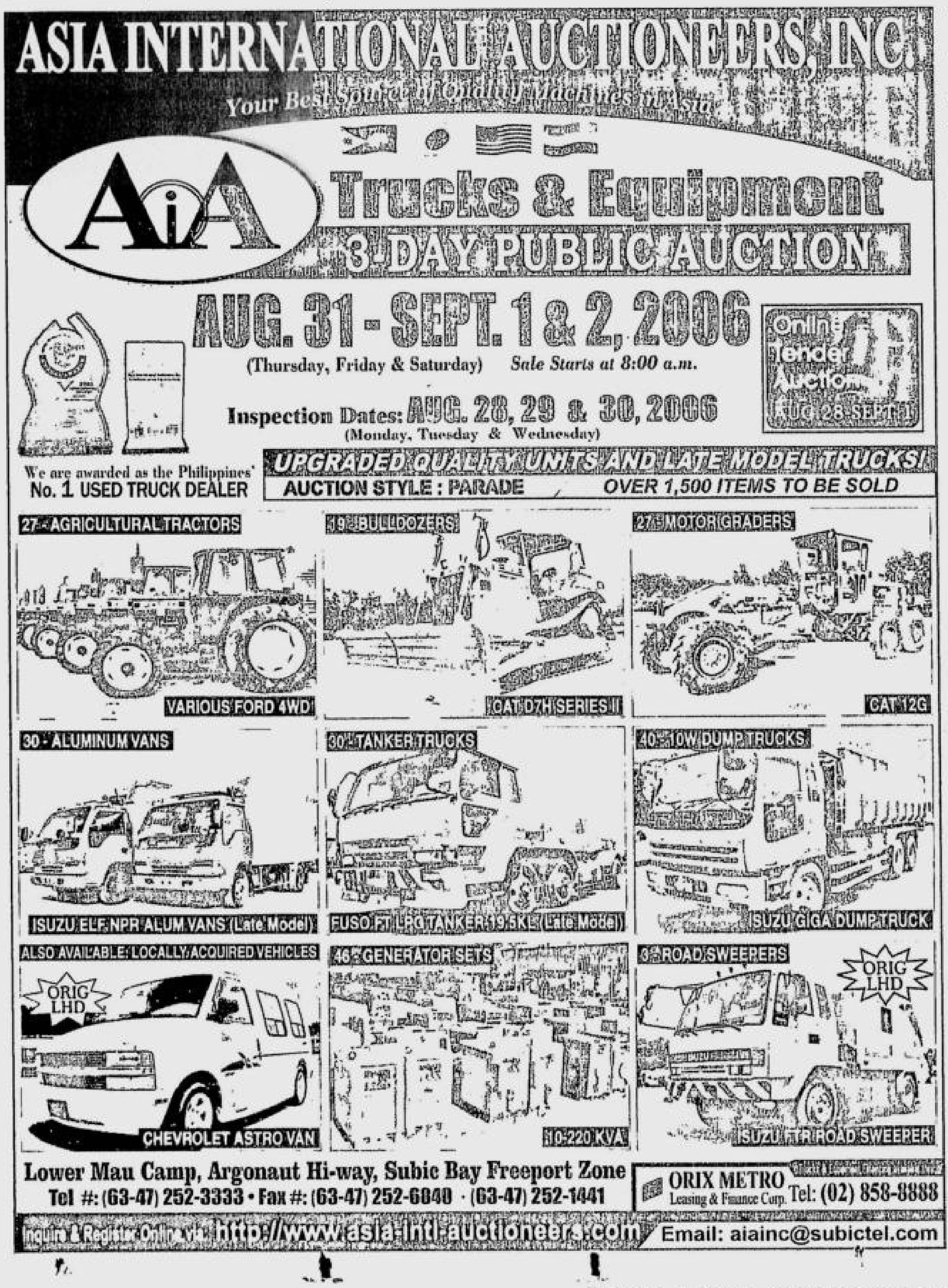
He seemed to imply that he was inclined to do the same: "Every time I turn on the TV, there's conflict and war, babies being bombed ... In California, there are 19-year-old kids who have taken to traveling overseas just to die. As far as I'm concerned, a rock star has a moral and social obligation to write about these observations and let people make up their minds and not classify anybody as anything, because in the end we're all just human beings."

Indeed, one of Fortune's trademarks is a twin tattoo on his forearms that say exactly that: "Human Being."

Original INXS members Kirk Pengilly, Garry Beers and the Farriss brothers Tim, Andrew and Jon, seemed content to let their front man do the talking yesterday. Asked about the difference between touring then and now, they simply noted current hassles at airports owing to terrorist scares.

"But there's still free champagne on board," guitarist Tim Farriss said playfully. Turning serious, he added, "In many respects, the world and the audience have not changed, and neither have we. We still want to reach as many people as possible to impart our music with as much passion as before."

JD, the front man, attributed this Manila visit to, well, "Fortune. We've made it here under the grace of life and karma and God ... to just be able to have a good time [with you]."



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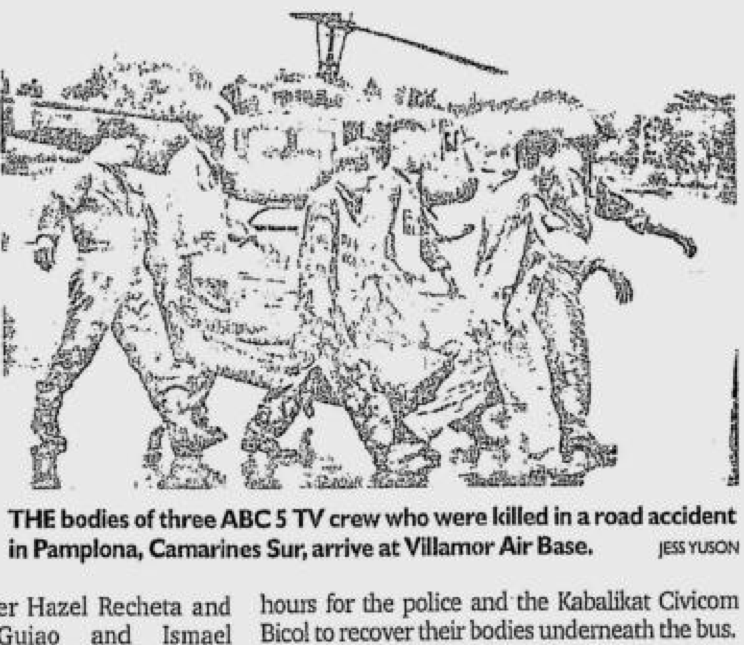
Bodies of 3 ABC-5 news crew members flown to Manila

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—THE REMAINS OF THREE crew members of television network ABC-5, who died in a road collision in Pamplona, Camarines Sur, on Sunday, were flown yesterday morning to Manila aboard two helicopters provided by the Philippine Air Force.

The helicopters which took off from the Naga City Sports Complex here carried in body bags the remains of Analiza "Hazel" Recheta, 37, senior reporter; Arnel Guiao, 42, cameraman; and Ismael "Maeng" Cabugayan, assistant cameraman and driver.

An ABC-5 team rushed to Pamplona after the accident and arranged for the airlift of the remains to Manila.



THE bodies of three ABC 5 TV crew who were killed in a road accident in Pamplona, Camarines Sur, arrive at Villamor Air Base. JESS YUSON

"The management and staff of ABC-5 deeply mourn the tragic death of our news personnel reporter Hazel Recheta and cameramen Arnel Guiao and Ismael Cabugayan. They died in the line of duty," the TV network said in a statement.

ABC-5 said it will announce funeral arrangements as soon as they are finalized.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday condoled with the families of the three ABC-5 crew members whose death she said, was a "sad day for Philippine journalism and Filipino public."

"The First Family and I share in the grief of the families, friends and co-workers of ABC-5 Hazel Recheta-Calimag and TV crew members Arnel Guiao and Ismael Cabugayan, who perished in a road accident after completing their duty of reporting the news to the public," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

Ms Arroyo said Recheta, a former member of the Malacañang Press Corps, would be remembered for her "fair and objective reporting." "She and her crew will be missed by public officials and other leaders," she said.

Recheta covered the Palace beat during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

The ABC-5 van carrying the three victims collided on Sunday with a Raymond bus at 4:45 p.m. in Del Rosario, Pamplona town, killing the three on the spot.

The vehicle was a total wreck. It took two hours for the police and the Kabalikat Civicom Bicol to recover their bodies underneath the bus.

Dave Gonzales, another ABC-5 crew member, said the victims left Legazpi City at past 1 p.m. after covering Mt. Mayon and dropped by here to buy pili nut candies an hour before the accident.

Gonzales said they left earlier at 10:30 a.m. and were already in Quezon province when Recheta sent him a text message at around 3:34 p.m., telling him they were still in Naga City.

"That was the last time she responded to my messages," he said.

Gonzales said they learned of the accident from a reporter who called him up at 5:30 p.m. when they were already in Pagbilao, Quezon.

Recheta, who has been with ABC-5 since 1995, left behind a one-year-old child while Guiao had three children. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

'Garci' men promotion defended

By Philip C. Tubeza

ADMINISTRATION ALLIES IN Congress yesterday defended the promotion of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano's protégés in the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Representatives Edwin Uy (Lakas, Isabela), chair of the House committee on bases conversion and development, and Eduardo Veloso (NPC, Leyte), a member of the powerful Commission on Appointments, said that mere allegations of poll fraud against them were not grounds to withhold their promotion.

They pointed out that the promotions were based on the Comelec officials' service records and the absence of any formal complaint against them.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on Sunday scored the promotion of four Elections officials, namely, Rey Sumalipao, Renato Mabutay, Francisco Pobe and Renault Macarambon. The senator alleged that they helped rig the results of the May 2004 elections to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory.

Uy said a government official's promotion should not be stalled because of "unsubstantiated allegations."

"If the promoted Comelec officials have not been charged, then there is no reason to stall their careers, more so, if they have good service records," he said.

Uy, a lawyer, said Pimentel and the rest of the opposition had not even dared to file charges or initiated impeachment complaints against top Comelec officials linked to the "Hello Garci" scandal.

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Spider veins on a formerly flawless face, leg or foot show one way of how aging makes its mark. These are actually normal veins that have expanded and enlarged from the increased pressure of blood in the veins. Wearing high-heeled shoes and even very tight belts and clothing can put excess stress on the lower leg and cause a constriction of blood flow from the leg back to the heart. This can result to the appearance of spider veins. As for facial spider veins, they may appear as a result of too much sun exposure. Both types of spider veins can also appear as a result of hormonal changes and inherited factors.

For the effective removal of spider veins, **Harmony** is a non-surgical, non-invasive treatment that utilizes a high-energy laser pulse that emits light, targeting both superficial and deep blood vessels. The light is then transformed to heat energy, which is absorbed by the blood vessels. This causes the collapse of the blood vessels without any damage to the overlaying skin. Compared to schlerotherapy, a process of inserting a fine needle to veins to be treated and injecting them with a solution called a sclerosant, Harmony is completely non-invasive, painless and safe. With schlerotherapy on the other hand, there are risks of infection, "matting," which is bruising as a result of this, and allergy to the sclerosant.

As for unsightly age spots, the **IPL** or **Intense Pulsed Light Photorejuvenation Treatment** is the answer. IPL is a non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that age spots, sun damage or blemishes show. It can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. The result is younger-looking skin and a clear, even complexion.

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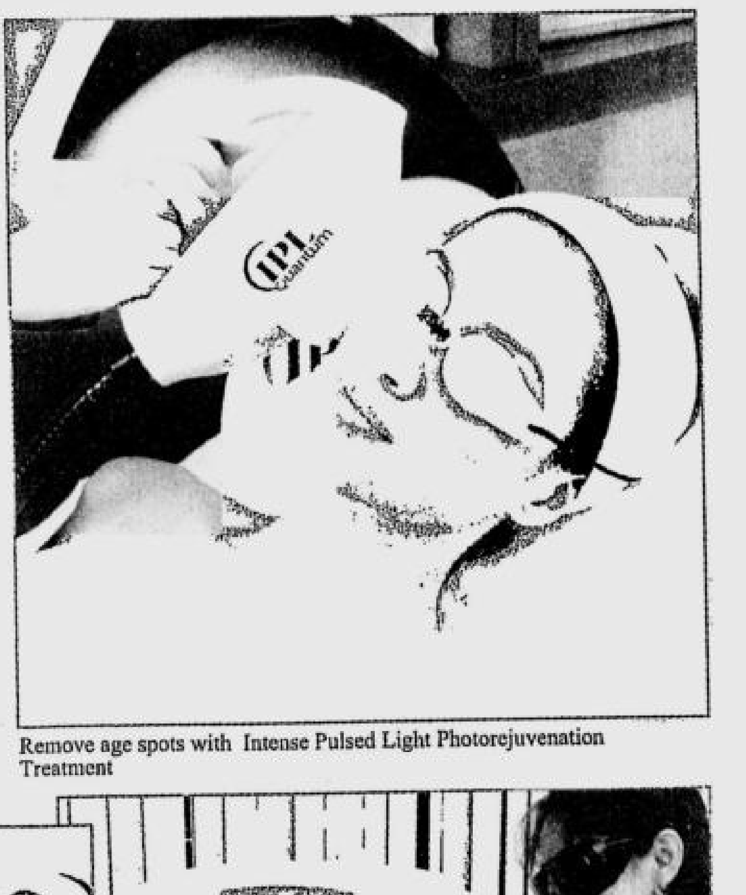

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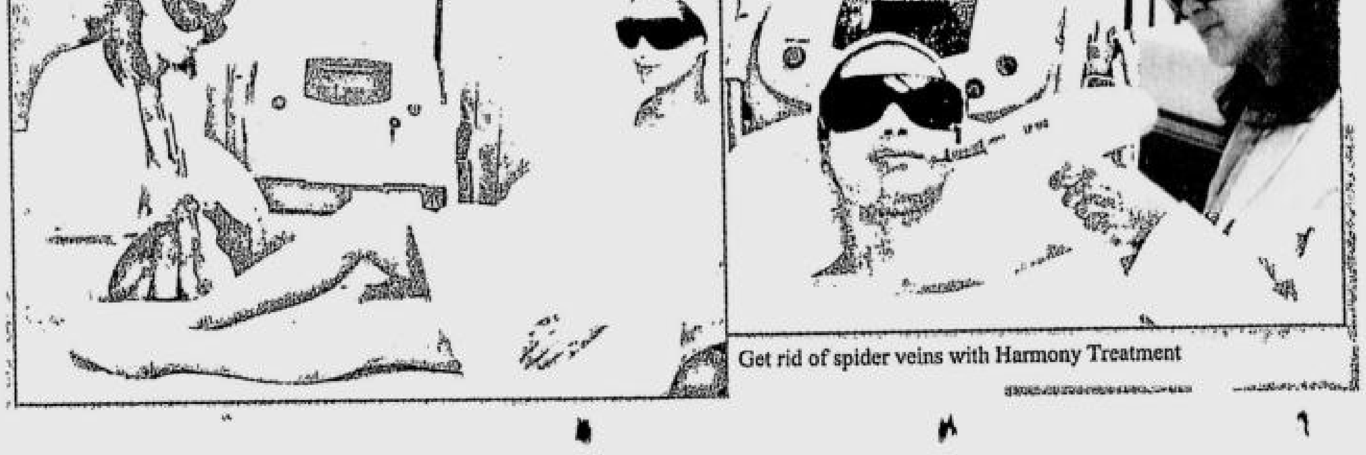

Get rid of spider veins with Harmony Treatment

Oil spill off Guimaras could reach Boracay

From page A1

The PCG estimates that 200,000 liters of bunker fuel contained in the sunken MT Solar I has spilled into the sea. "Over 10,000 liters of spilled oil is already considered major. An amount like this is a national emergency," Coyme said.

Coyme said the PCG would call on private companies, such as Shell and Caltex, to lend their oil spill booms to ensure that the fuel would not spread further.

Harold Harder, Coast Guard-Iloilo station commander, said the oil spill was so big that it could dwarf the Semirara incident, referring to the oil spill off Semirara Island in Antique late last year. A power barge ran aground on Dec. 18 and spilled at least 364,120 liters of bunker fuel.

Environment regional director Julian Amador said the oil spill had already caused damage to the environment but the extent had yet to be determined.

The spill threatens the rich fishing grounds, mangroves and beaches of the island-province of Guimaras. It could damage a national marine reserve and fisheries research center in Barangay La Paz on Taclong Island in Nueva Valencia.

Capt. Luis Tuazon Jr., Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas, said the spill could reach Negros Island because of the southwesterly direction of the wind and waves.

He said coastal barangays of towns in the western part of Negros, especially those south of Bacolod City, should prepare.

Eligio Calaor, a civil defense assistant regional director who joined a Coast Guard aerial survey of the damage, yesterday said that the spill had spread to the coast of some portions of Guimaras and that 14 barangays were expected to be hit.

The spill has already affected 10 coastal barangays—Cabalagnan, Canhawan, Dolores, Guiwanon, Igdarapdap, La Paz, Lucmayan, San Antonio, San Roque and Tando—out of the 22 villages of Nueva Valencia, according to Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga.

"It is very wide and we need assistance," Gonzaga said.

The Coast Guard is readying food assistance, especially rice, to residents who have stopped fishing, their main source of income, since Sunday, according to the mayor. It is rushing to bring spill booms, skimmers, oil dispersants and other equipment to Guimaras.

Tuazon said tugboats loaded with equipment were expected to reach the area late yesterday afternoon.

Bamboo poles

The local government has started distributing bamboo poles and absorbent materials, like dried grass and *dagami* (rice straw), to residents to help contain the spill.

Nueva Valencia has the biggest area and the second biggest population among the five towns of Guimaras — Sibunag, Buenavista, San Lorenzo and Jordan, the capital.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava said a state of calamity was expected to be declared for Nueva Valencia yesterday.

Nava said the shoreline in the affected villages was covered with thick, dark oil. "We are concerned with the long term impact on and damage to the island and the people," the governor said.

The Solar I sank 24 km southwest of Guimaras late Friday afternoon, according to Harder. The 998-ton tanker, owned by Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., is under contract with giant oil firm Petron to ship fuel to Western Mindanao Power Corp. in Zamboanga del Sur.

It was carrying 13,000 barrels or 2 million liters of bunker fuel in 10 tanks. It left Limay, Bataan, on Wednesday.

Abandon ship

Ship captain Norberto Aguro told Coast Guard officials that at around 1 a.m. on Friday, he sought shelter at the Guimaras Strait due to big waves and strong winds. He reported that the ship's chain locker had taken in water.

The ship resumed course at around 3 p.m. after it reported that it had pumped out the water using submersible pumps.

Aguro said he ordered the crew to abandon ship at around 4 p.m. after they lost control of the vessel when it tilted to its right.

Sixteen of the 18 crew members reached the shores of Nueva Valencia. Two surveyors aboard the ship were rescued. Two crew members have remained missing.

Harder said the Coast Guard learned about the incident on Saturday morning after the recovery of the crew was reported.

Tuazon said the tanks containing the bunker oil could break or explode because of water pressure. The tanker, which sank to a depth of 603 meters, is beyond the reach of divers.

"We need the assistance of foreign salvage companies to siphon off the remaining fuel," Tuazon said. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

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Stressed . . .

From page A1

mixture of yoga, Alexander Technique and breathing exercises to relieve tension—all used by singers to warm up before they perform.

"I got the idea to construct the classes in a way so hardworking people can use it to energize themselves and get relaxed," she said.

Hochapfel has run classes in West End for the past year, but she has just started in the bustling financial district of Canary Wharf where people are noticeably uptight.

"These people are so stressed," she said. "I was trying to distribute postcards about my classes and normally I don't have difficulty getting in contact with people but it was so hard to get eye contact."

Hochapfel said she sensed people's fear, which she put down to anxiety about doing well in their jobs. "It's the competition—you sense that."

Thousands of suit-clad workers stream out of Canary Wharf underground station at rush hour on weekdays, hurrying to get to their high-rise offices where they put in long hours with few breaks but plenty of stress.

According to Hochapfel, the physical and mental processes involved in singing help alleviate tension as the whole body has to relax.

"All your ligaments are connected to the voice, so the way you hold even your wrists can affect how your voice sounds," she said.

Breathing

Hochapfel, who trained in Cologne and New York, starts her class with breathing exercises. She asks people to imagine their bodies as a tube through which air flows.

"It's an ancient way to unleash energy and relax and tone the body and mind," she said.

Hochapfel then gets the class to throw a ball to each other and the person holding the ball has to sing a phrase from a song.

In one session, the exercise produced: "The hills are alive with the sound of music," "Ave Maria," and "Sex and drugs and rock and roll."

"It's like melody dialogue which can be very funny and because it's funny you forget about other things," Hochapfel said.

Stress is responsible for 12.8 million lost working days a year in Britain, translating into almost US$7.61 billion in lost revenue, according to Gabriella Goddard, an executive coach who offers courses on how to deal with stress.

Equilibrium

Goddard, who is currently working on an antistress program at US investment bank Lehman Brothers, said the symptoms of stress—such as a faster heart rate and increased blood supply to the brain—once had a more positive function.

"It was great when we had to fight bears," she said.

But today, people find it hard to de-stress and return the body to equilibrium, according to Goddard. "We can forget how to switch off the on switch."

Goddard's sessions at Lehman Brothers highlight stress-relieving strategies, including exercise, as well as adopting a different perspective on the work environment.

"I get people to be silent for five minutes and just look out of the window. That helps to calm people down and get the heart in equilibrium," Goddard said.

Employers have become more aware of stress in terms of ill health and also litigation. People can claim work-related stress under British employment legislation under health and safety rules or as a breach of contract.

Increasing numbers of companies in the United States are offering employees massage and yoga onsite, not only to de-stress people but to encourage them to stay at that company rather than move to another.

Less conventional

Some places have come up with less conventional ways of getting people to unwind.

A bar in China lets customers punch staff and smash glasses to unleash pent-up anger. In the Philippines, residents flock to a restaurant in Gerona, Tarlac, where they can smash plates against a "wall of fury."

Women are more proactive than men in terms of wanting to tackle stress, according to Goddard. "Women want to know how to juggle their lives better."

Hochapfel, who performs jazz and cabaret in London, also found women more receptive to her antistress remedies.

Men, however, do come to her classes. "But it's always fewer men than women—what a pity," she said. *Reuters*

Senate to probe use of Owwa fund in 'Smokey' project

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE use of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) fund for the Smokey Mountain housing project would begin next week, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said yesterday.

Scheduled to be grilled are Reghis Romero, who owns R-II Builders, which is developing the former garbage dump into a residential and commercial complex, and former President Fidel V. Ramos. It was during Ramos' term that the Smokey Mountain project was implemented, Estrada said at the Kapihan sa Manila forum.

Romero, who has yet to receive an invitation from the Senate, said he was willing to testify. He had already attended five Senate investigations on the same project, he told the INQUIRER yesterday in a phone interview, and there was no reason for him to snub this latest invitation.

In the forum, Estrada explained that the Senate investigation was a result of a resolution filed by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago calling for the investigation of Ramos for the alleged plunder of P500 million in Owwa funds used in the Smokey Mountain project.

Santiago filed the resolution after an auditor from the Commission on Audit had testified before the Senate that the Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC) had paid the principal amount of P500 million to Owwa in 2002. This was because R-II Builders defaulted upon the maturity of the asset participation certificates (APCs) in 2000 when these already amounted to P835 million.

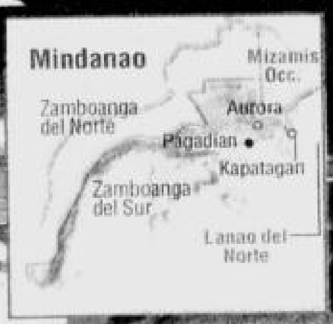
APCs are government securities issued to investors in the project.

Ramos had maintained that he did not take the P500 million nor ordered Owwa to invest in the Smokey Mountain project. He also said he was willing to appear before the Senate.

Romero, in the same phone interview, denied that R-II defaulted when the APCs matured. He also said there was nothing wrong with Owwa investing money in the housing project, adding that under the Securitization Act or Republic Act No. 9267, government institutions were allowed to invest up to a certain amount in housing projects.

TWO buses remain on the road in Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur. Landslides earlier swept away a third bus, killing five passengers.

MICHAEL SARCAUGA/INQUIRER MINDANAO



BIG waves demolished this house in the village of White Beach in Pagadian City.

MICHAEL SARCAUGA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

5 dead as landslide sweeps bus into ravine

From page A1

marate at around 4 a.m.

Sevilla said all she did was run for safety. Her mother, Felicitacion Guy-ab, was not as lucky and was buried alive.

Cabahug said none of the people on the bus died. "Those who died were passengers who went outside the bus and were caught by the mud," he said.

State of calamity

The mayor identified one of the fatalities as Delma Allam, 35, a postmaster in Tungawan town, Zamboanga Sibugay. Three others remained unidentified, while a child was reported missing.

Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Aurora Cerilles declared a state of calamity in the towns of Aurora and Tukuran and in Pagadian City.

Big waves in Pagadian swept away 25 houses in the coastal village of White Beach. The waves also damaged 50 houses, an elementary school, a daycare center and a mangrove reforestation project.

In Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte, two people died while some 3,500 families moved to higher grounds as floods hit 10 villages, according to the Philippine National Red Cross provincial administrator Monina Castillo.

Drowned

Castillo said an unidentified elderly man and a child drowned when they tried to cross the floodwater to get into a small banca.

"The rain did not stop. There was a landslide and flooding, and some houses were covered in mud," said Chief Supt. Florante Baguio, regional police director.

The exact number of those affected could not be ascertained. Senior Supt. Linog Bagul, chief of the Lanao del Norte police, said some remote areas could not be immediately reached.

"We received information about missing people, but we could not verify that yet," Bagul said.

Food, clothing, medicine

The evacuees have sought temporary shelter at the municipal gym, day care centers, schools, churches and multipurpose halls of other villages spared by floods.

"We need immediate assistance like food and warm clothing as these people had been soaked by heavy rains. We also need medicines because most of the evacuees may catch diseases," Castillo said.

In Negros Occidental, floods in four cities and nine towns affected 60,364 people, damaged 2,377 houses and destroyed 293 others.

Worst hit were the towns of Valladolid, San Enrique and Pulupandan, according to Vicfran Defante, Provincial Disaster Management Team (PDMT) chief.

Mayors have placed the three towns under a state of calamity.

The PDMT, together with the Bacolod Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Bacolod Chamber Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, distributed relief goods to 3,000 residents of Valladolid, San Enrique and Pulupandan Sunday, according to Defante.

The provincial government and the local government units have also been assisting the flood victims.

Valladolid Mayor Ricardo Presbitero and San Enrique Mayor Jilson Tubillara said most of the floodwaters had subsided yesterday. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto in Manila and Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

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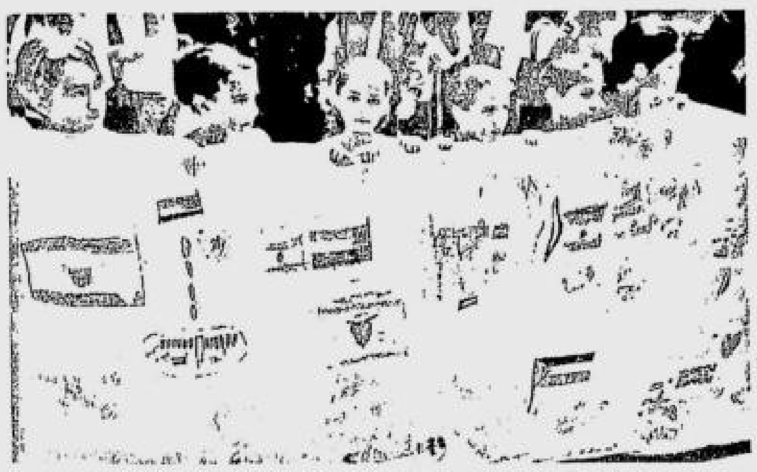
'The most dangerous day in this war'

From page A1

"They know that people will let down their guard now that a ceasefire has been agreed to. But they want to make things uncertain for us until the very last minute."

Nahla Chahal, the Lebanese activist coordinating the visit of our 12-member Civil Society-Parliamentary delegation, agreed. "They can't accept the fact that they've not been able to beat Hezbollah, so they'll terrorize the civilian population till the very end."



CHILDREN hold part of a 700-meter banner covered with drawings and writing expressing relief following the UN-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah. AFP

Shattered legs

After walking though the ruins earlier in the day, we moved on to the Beirut University General Hospital. We briefly visited Firas Chahal, a 27-year-old man with internal and external wounds.

He had been thrown out of a minibus when an Israeli jet bombed the bridge at the Casino du Liban that we had to take a detour around on the way to Beirut.

Confined at a nearby room was Khaleek Mahmoud, a 68-year-old grandmother whose legs were shattered after the roof of her house collapsed on her when Israeli warplanes pounded her village in southern Lebanon.

"Israel is a tyrannical state," she told us. "You should go down there and see for yourselves."

1M displaced people

We hurried to the Ecole El Ghoul in downtown Beirut, which serves as temporary quarters for 355 people from 66 families from the south. One million Lebanese have been displaced by the war, so the conditions of the people we met were typical of those of a full third of the country.

"The integration of the refugees into old neighborhoods brings its share of problems," said Chahal. "The Hezbollah, however, is trying its best to provide the social services to support the people in this school."

Children of war

Children and adolescents filled the courtyard and greeted our delegation with glee, taking advantage of every photo opportunity. For a few moments, confronted by this sea of smiles, the war seemed far away.

The younger ones broke out into cheers when Vijaya Chauhan, one of our delegation members who has worked with women and children in India, waved and talked to them.

Then they broke out into a chant that invoked the name of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. The chant translated roughly into: "Nasrallah, we're with you/You can bomb Tel Aviv."

A human disaster

After the lunch, disrupted by the sounds of Israeli bombs falling in south Beirut, we spent most of the afternoon with Lebanese nongovernment organizations assessing the scale of the humanitarian and ecological disaster and looking ahead to a post-ceasefire cooperation.

Two massive blasts interrupted our discussion, but our Lebanese hosts went on talking, telling us that the sounds came from Israeli Navy boats shelling south Beirut a few miles away.

The booming sounds from south Beirut rang out through our dinner in a restaurant later in the evening. But they could not deter people at a nearby table from carousing loudly.

Stoic people

The Israelis were bombing up to the last hour to terrorize the Lebanese but it wasn't working.

These people were very angry, but they're used to war and were not about to let it get in the way of their lives.

These are stoic people.

Impeach case backed by 7 boxes of evidence

From page A1

not go beyond Round One.

The complaint is one of eight filed this year but the seven others were thrown out because they fell within the one-year ban for filing an impeachment case.

Last year, allies of Ms Arroyo roundly trashed the opposition move to unseat Ms Arroyo over charges she rigged the 2004 presidential election.

"Clearly, the nation cannot move on, and even clearer, it cannot move on with the sitting President, or for as long as the truth is obfuscated," said Cayetano.

'Cheap publicity'

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles described the opposition's move as "a cheap publicity gimmick," saying the opposition knew fully well that it could not introduce evidence before the determination of substance.

The plenary expects the committee to finish its task in at most 60 session days, so that the full chamber can vote for or against the impeachment of the President. At least 77 votes, or a third of the House membership of 232, can send the complaint to the Senate for trial.

The eighth complaint, which was found on Wednesday to be sufficient in form, charges the President with culpable violations of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, bribery and graft and corruption.

Baterina said that even without presentation of evidence, the committee would allow a full-blown recital and discussion of the causes of action—the specific allegations or instances cited in the complaint to support the four grounds for impeachment.

"There are many causes of action. The debates will go from one cause of action to the other, and the debates may take long," said Baterina, explaining that the committee had not yet made up its mind on the fate of the complaint.

Asked about chances that the majority would find the complaint substantial, Baterina said:

"I'm sure that every member of the committee on justice will have its own way of explaining whether the charges, or the causes of action, are substantial enough to impeach the President, or to find substance and, therefore, make a report to the plenary for the impeachment of the President."

But he said he did not think the majority would vote for impeachment.

Truth hidden in boxes

Cayetano said the truth remained hidden in the seven boxes. If the boxes were to be opened, "the charges are not only beyond reasonable doubt but beyond any doubt."

"The evidence are already under custody; the criminal is still at-large," he said, pointing out that the boxes purportedly contained evidence of "multimillion-peso bank accounts, tapes, videos, eyewitness testimony, and other damaging and convincing evidence" against Ms Arroyo.

He said the evidence on allegations that Ms Arroyo stole the 2004 election included the "Hello Garci" tapes, election paraphernalia, still photographs and sworn statements by persons involved in cheating.

Cayetano said the corruption charge against the President was supported by a paper trail of bank accounts and other financial transactions and a Commission on Audit report on the alleged P728-million fertilizer scam.

He said there were other material, documentary and testimonial evidence on political repression, extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances.

See and appreciate

"All these we ask our colleagues in Congress to see and appreciate, so that truth and justice can prevail," said Cayetano. "We're offering these to Congress and the Filipino people."

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said sufficiency of substance simply meant that the charges were impeachable offenses. If not, he said, "your lawmakers tell you that stealing, lying, killing and cheating are not impeachable" offenses.

"The only way we can move on is to open these boxes and see what's inside and get to the truth," said Leah Navarro, one of the private complainants. Fellow complainant Jose Lichauco said: "We can't go on like this; things are not transparent. So deal or no deal? Money or boxes?"

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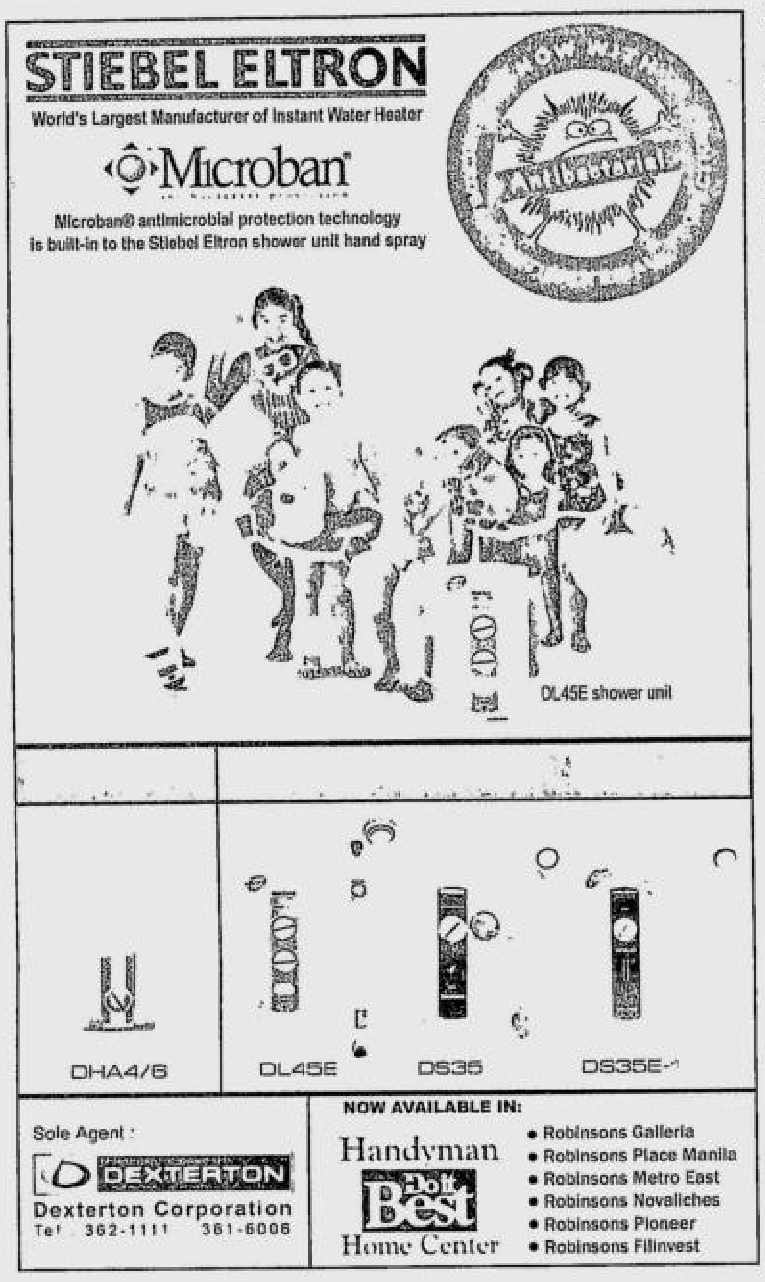

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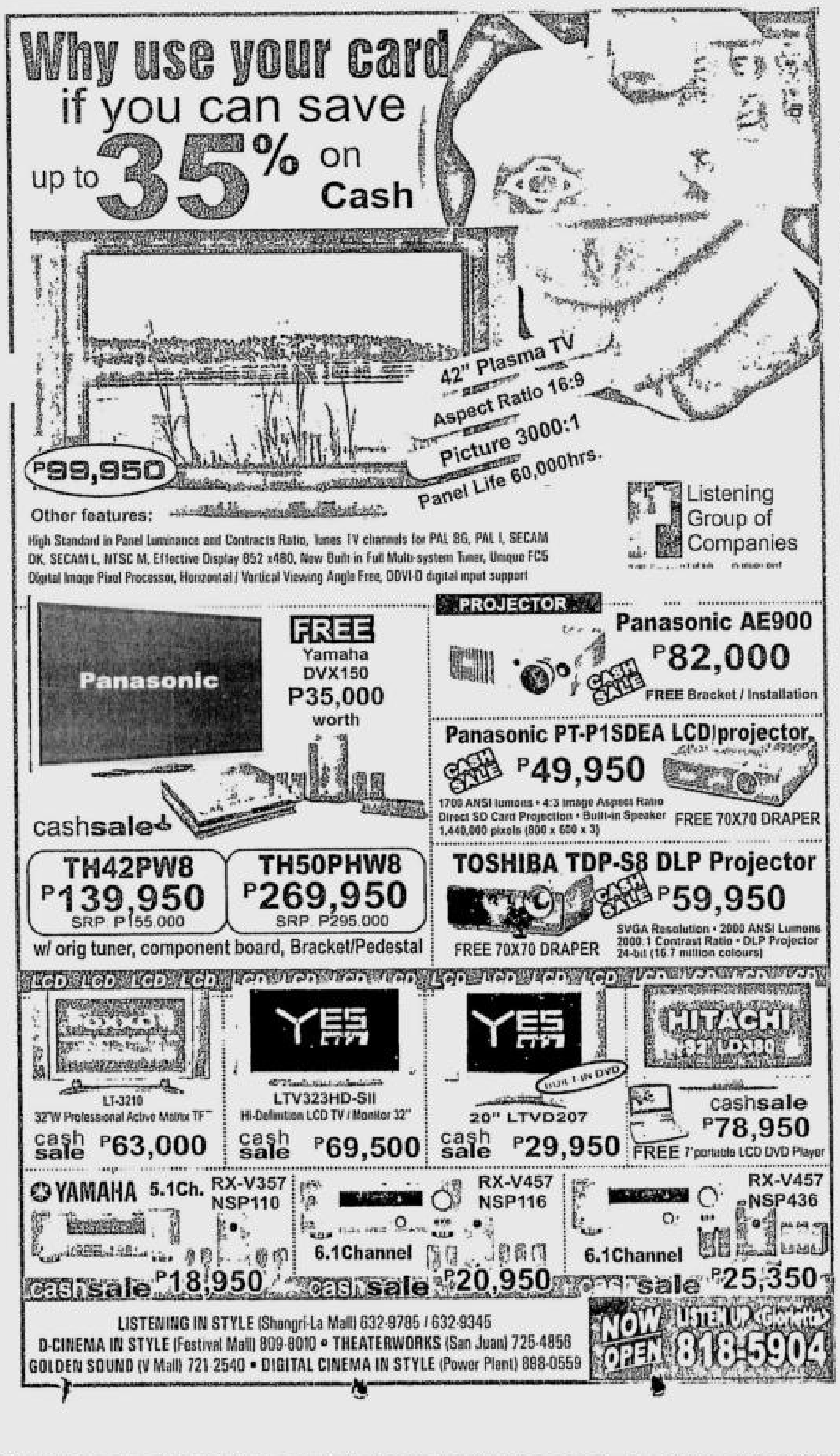

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No hurry to Lafayette mine test, says DENR

THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH THE trial run of a copper and gold mine of Australian firm Lafayette Mining Ltd. after it was shut for pollution violations last year, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes told a news conference yesterday.

"The test run might have been taking longer than expected, but we should not rush it," Reyes said.

"The government allowed Lafayette to hold a 30-day test run on its Rapu-Rapu polymetallic project on a remote island southeast of Manila from July 10.

Many expected that the 30-day test run should have ended on Aug. 10, but mining officials said that the counting of the trial run was based on the actual test-operation at Rapu-Rapu.

The mining project, one of 24 being promoted by the government to revive the Southeast Asian country's nearly moribound mining sector, suspended operations three months after pouring its first gold on July 20 last year after two cyanide spills.

"It should do the test run for as long as it should take because we want to make sure that this is done properly and in a transparent manner," Reyes said.

"We should make sure that the environment will be protected if the mine operations should resume permanently," he said. *Reuters*

Gloria, ex-DECS, DOST secretary, dies at 66

By Alcuin Papa

FORMER EDUCATION SECRETARY Ricardo Gloria died on Sunday due to complications from diabetes.

He was 66.

According to his son, Bong Gloria, his father was first admitted to the Philippine Heart Center on May 25 because of problems with his heart.

On June 5, Gloria underwent a coronary bypass surgery. Yesterday, his son said an infection brought about by his diabetic condition led to his death at around 9:30 a.m.

Gloria's body was brought to the Church Among the Palms inside the University of the Philippines campus in Los Banos, Laguna.

On Wednesday, his body will be brought to United Church of Christ in the Philippines in Digos, Davao del Sur. He will be buried on Sunday at the Digos Memorial Park.

Before working for government, Gloria served as a World Bank consultant in Indonesia.

He served as Education Secretary from 1994 to 1998 during the term of former President Fidel V. Ramos. Before that, he served as Department of Science an Technology (DOST) secretary during the term of former president Corazon Aquino.

BURMA VISIT

Romulo returns empty-handed

FOREIGN SECRETARY ALBERTO ROMULO said yesterday he failed to get any response from Myanmar's junta leaders when he renewed regional demands for the release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and a rapid shift to democracy.

Although Myanmar continues to take encouraging steps, including a decision to invite U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his special envoy to visit, efforts to prod the military-ruled nation to fulfill long-promised democratic reforms should continue, Romulo said.

Romulo met with the junta's top five leaders, including Senior Gen. Than Shwe, during a three-day visit last week to Myanmar. He was the latest in a string of high-level envoys from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations to visit the country.

In Myanmar's new administrative capital of Naypyidaw, Romulo reminded the leaders of last month's demand by Asean foreign ministers for the release of political detainees, including Nobel laureate Suu Kyi, and more democratic reforms, Romulo said at a news conference yesterday.

Romulo said his appeal was met with silence.

"We stated it, that's the important thing. You know, you cannot force people to make a statement," he said.

According to Romulo, Myanmar's Than Shwe said "an important milestone" would be reached before the end of the year in connection with the country's efforts to draft a Constitution through a National Convention of political and ethnic groups—touted as a first step on its road map to democracy.

Critics have dismissed the National Convention as a sham because Suu Kyi's party is not attending.

"We're doing what we can to tell them to get back to the road map and, in fact, although it's not complete, there is some light at the end of the tunnel," he said. "It's like water lapping on a rock. In time, the rock starts to chip away."

Romulo said he did not meet Suu Kyi because "it was not in the agenda."

Suu Kyi, 60, has spent nearly 11 of the last 17 years in detention, mostly under house arrest. She was most recently taken into custody in May 2003, after a mob supporting the junta attacked her motorcade.

Myanmar has become a source of embarrassment to Asean, largely because of the country's dismal human rights record, which has been condemned by Western and European governments. *AP*

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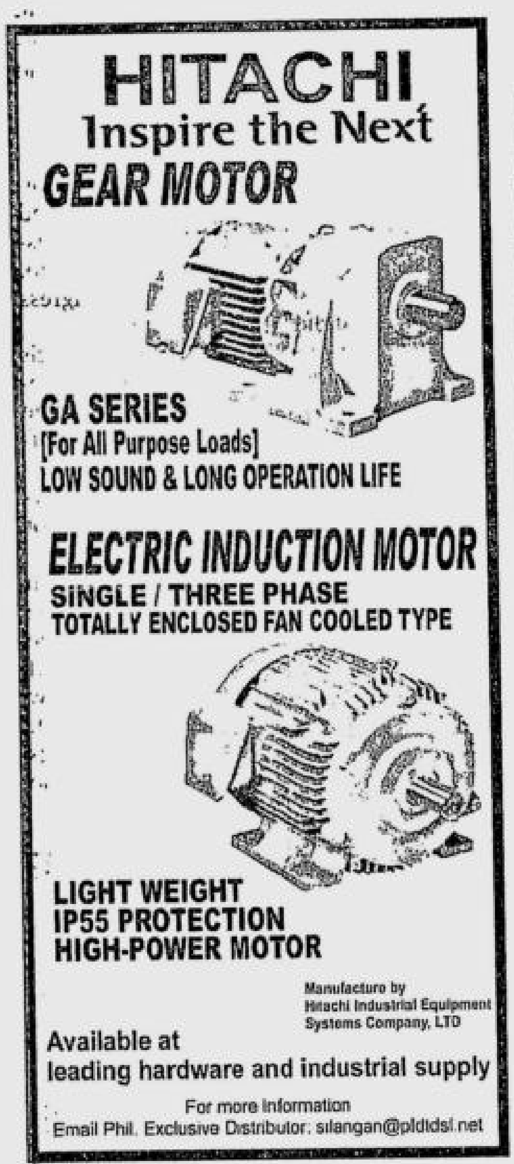
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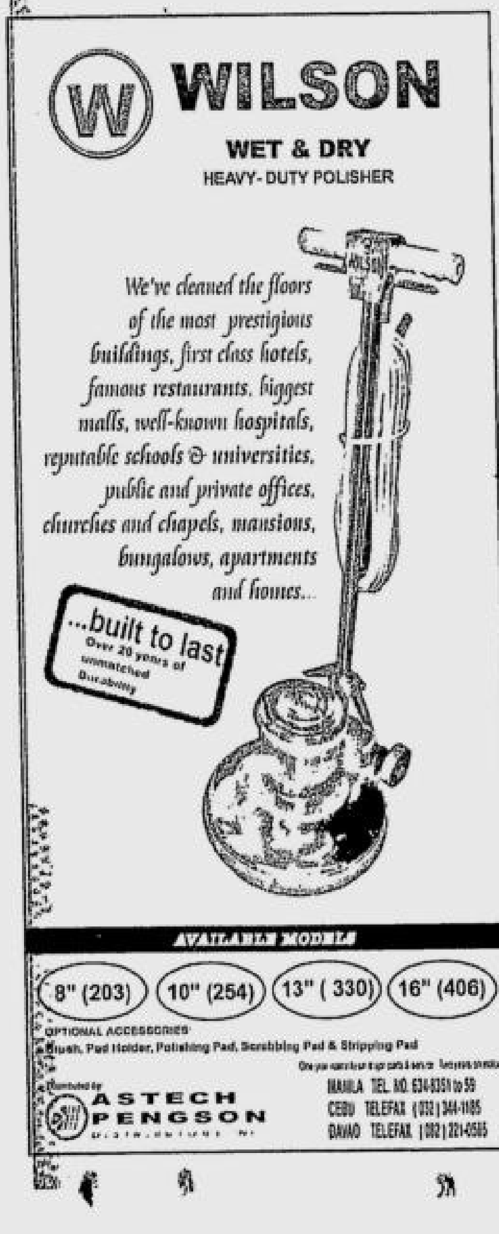
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Water interruption in portions of Pateros and Taguig needed to upgrade facilities

Manila Water is currently upgrading its facilities and pipelines to further improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. As part of the program, a large check valve will be installed at the Taguig Booster Pump which will result in a temporary cutoff of water supply in some parts of Pateros and Taguig. The interruption will begin 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 16, 2006, up to 4:00 a.m., Thursday, August 17. Affected areas will be: Barangays San Roque, Martires del 96, Aguho and Sta. Ana, all in Pateros and Barangays Ususan, Tuktukan, Bambang, Wawa, Sta. Ana, Lower Bicutan and Hagonoy, in Taguig.

All residents of the said areas are advised to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

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(PDI - August 15 2006)

Fragile peace in Lebanon; war leaves 1,250 dead

From page A1

awesome firepower, helicopter-borne commando raids, and air strikes deep into Lebanon aimed at killing Hezbollah leaders and cutting off their flow of arms.

It found an opponent vastly better prepared and spoiling for a fight.

"Hezbollah have been preparing for exactly this battle for six years," said Israeli counterterrorism expert Boaz Ganor.

Code of silence

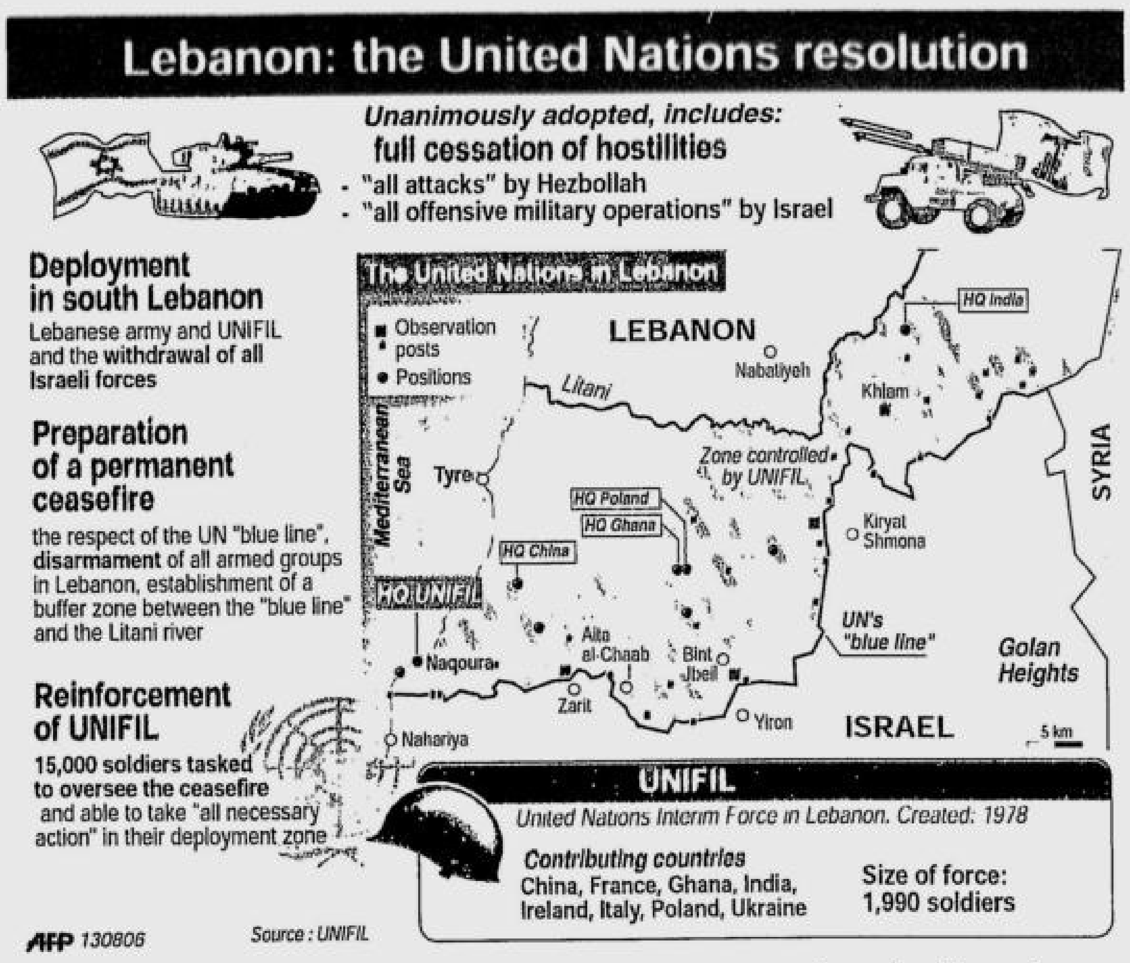
During this time, the guerrilla group molded southern Lebanon into an ideal battleground for a guerrilla war.

A complex series of bunkers and tunnels were dug out of the rocky hills and superbly camouflaged.

A vast arsenal of rockets was hidden from sight, often in village houses and caves—protected by a code of silence among the local residents who view Hezbollah as the defenders of Lebanon.

Ground forces were sent in to find and destroy the well-hidden rocket launchers.

Lebanon: the United Nations resolution


Unanimously adopted, includes:
full cessation of hostilities
- "all attacks" by Hezbollah
- "all offensive military operations" by Israel
Deployment in south Lebanon
Lebanese army and UNIFIL and the withdrawal of all Israeli forces
Preparation of a permanent ceasefire
the respect of the UN "blue line", disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon, establishment of a buffer zone between the "blue line" and the Litani river
Reinforcement of UNIFIL
15,000 soldiers tasked to oversee the ceasefire and able to take "all necessary action" in their deployment zone
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Zarit
UN's "blue line"
Golan Heights
Nahariya
Yiron
ISRAEL
5 km
UNIFIL
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. Created: 1978
Contributing countries
China, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Ukraine
Size of force: 1,990 soldiers

AFP 130806 Source : UNIFIL

Like phantoms

To the consternation of the Israelis, they would be hit time and again in villages and towns already captured, as Hezbollah squads appeared like phantoms from hidden bunkers—many stocked with enough food and ammunition to last weeks.

"You look for it, but you don't know where it is coming from," said Idan Swissa, 20, an Israeli tank gunner.

It's not just by utilizing classic guerrilla tactics. Hezbollah was also superbly armed—mainly by Iran and Syria—and on a large scale.

Antitank rockets

The one weapon that has proved particularly effective for Hezbollah has been their antitank rockets, from the more-basic RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) and Sagger missiles to the advanced Russian-made Fagot and Kornet systems and the European Milan missile.

Hezbollah antitank cells hit dozens of Israeli tanks, including the formidable Merkava tank, and maximizing the damage with an intimate knowledge of the Israeli armor.

However, it has not always been about high-tech arsenals.

Katyusha and booby traps

Israel, the only country in the world with an active antiballistic system on line, was left helpless as Hezbollah fired thousands of World War II-era Katyusha rockets into Israel.

And Israel countered an array of Hezbollah booby traps, fitted with pressure pads, electronic sensors and remote control detonators, with bulldozers.

Yet despite the blows they have taken, most military analysts give the Israeli Army high marks for its performance.

Technical superiority

The Israeli Army has used its technical superiority to good effect. Unmanned drones hover over the battlefields, giving commanders back in Israel real-time information.

Israel's vaunted Air Force, with its F-16 and F-15 warplanes, have pounded targets, dropping laser-guided smart bombs on Hezbollah command bunkers and trucks transporting ammunition in from Syria.

The Israeli troops operated mostly at night, using their superior night-vision equipment to neutralize Hezbollah's advantages.

As the ceasefire took hold, exhausted Lebanese refugees streamed from their shelters to stock up on provisions and inspect ruined homes.

Towns in northern Israel that have borne the brunt of rocket attacks remained deserted.

The five-week war displaced about a million people and laid waste to swathes of Lebanon.

Israel said some soldiers began pulling out of Lebanon but that it would not lift its air and sea blockade until a mechanism was in place to weapons smuggling.

Thousands of Lebanese displaced by the war headed south after the truce—some to check damage to their houses, others hoping to return home for good. Drivers honked their horns, and hundreds of cars jammed a narrow road leading south from Sidon.

Deadly last minutes

Around 1,100 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 156 Israelis, including 116 soldiers, have been killed in the war, triggered when Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid on July 12.

Minutes before the truce began, an Israeli air strike on a van on the outskirts of the eastern city of Baalbek killed seven people. The van was transporting policemen, soldiers and civilians.

Air strikes on a village near Lebanon's eastern border with Syria killed at least nine civilians, medics said.

Under a UN Security Council resolution, Israeli forces must start to withdraw as around 15,000 foreign peacekeeping troops and 15,000 Lebanese soldiers arrive in the south. Hezbollah must also pull its fighters out of southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah has said it accepts the UN resolution but has not said whether it will pull out its forces from the area south of the Litani river.

Israeli officials said the Jewish state believed it would be entitled to use force to prevent Hezbollah from rearming and clear guerrilla positions out of southern Lebanon even after the truce took effect.

Western diplomats said they feared Israel's broad definition of "defensive" actions could lead to a resurgence in large-scale fighting and prevent swift deployment of the UN troops, likely to be led by France.

The United Nations has said it could be around a week before the international force can be deployed. Morocco, Indonesia, Italy, Turkey, Spain and Malaysia have agreed to send troops to bolster the UN force.

Warplanes dropped leaflets over Beirut blaming Hezbollah and its Iranian and Syrian "masters" for the devastation and warning it would respond to any future attack.

"Can you pay this price a second time?" said one leaflet.

Hezbollah activists handed out their own posters, claiming "divine victory."

Joyous Lebanese

With Hezbollah vowing to fight until the last Israeli soldier leaves Lebanon and Israel stressing it will respond to any attack on its troops or rocket fire, it was unclear whether the ceasefire would hold.

The mood among the convoys of Lebanese heading south back to their homes was joyful.

Some said they were going to check on their homes and then go back to the safety of the north while others said they were returning for good.

Many cars were hooting their horns, their occupants giving the V for victory sign.

"Thank you, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah," she added in reference to the Hezbollah chief. *AP, Reuters, AFP*

In wars, quest for media balance also a battlefield

From page A1

fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, whose eight-year tenure at CNN included a stint as Baghdad bureau chief.

Editors and executives at newspapers, newsmagazines and the broadcast and cable networks say they do not impose a formula for fairness on coverage of the war in Lebanon.

"This is not a sporting event where we're toting up the scores of both sides," said Jonathan Klein, president of CNN for the United States.

Attention to images

But media editors and executives concede they are very conscious of keeping a rough balance over time, whether that is a 24-hour cable news cycle or a week's worth of evening broadcasts and newspapers.

And they pay special attention to images because of their potency.

"Photos are trickier than words because their content is in large measure emotional, visceral, and because you can't edit their content," said Bill Keller, executive editor of The New York Times. "You can't insert a 'to be sure' paragraph in a photo."

According to Keller, his newspaper bases its photography choices on an array of factors, including a picture's quality, originality and relevance.

"You don't say, 'Yesterday we fronted dead Lebanese innocents, so today we have to front dead Israeli innocents,'" he said. "But you aim over time to portray the full range of the war's consequences."

That goal is even more challenging when dealing with still photographs, which better than any other medium convey the eloquence and meaning of horrific situations, according to David Friend, editor of creative development for Vanity Fair and a former director of photography for Life magazine.

Not about taking sides

In an article titled "Unintended Targets" in last week's issue of Time, the newsmagazine offered readers two photos next to each other.

On the left-hand page, a crying girl clings to her mother in an Israeli emergency room, both of them injured by a Hezbollah rocket.

On the right-hand page, amid a scene of body bags after an Israeli attack on a building in Qana, a dead boy can be glimpsed through a plastic shroud.

Richard Stengel, Time's managing editor, said that while concerns about fairness entered into his judgment, that was not the prime factor in this case.

"Even though the pictures are side by side, there's a kind of aesthetic balance, not necessarily an ideological one," Stengel said. "It's not about taking sides, but about the terrible poignancy for people on both sides."

Complex issue

Jon Banner, executive producer of "World News With Charles Gibson" on ABC, said he could not think of a news event in recent memory more difficult to cover, given the complexity of the issues and powerful nature of the images.

Executives at news organizations, long steeled to complaints about their Middle East coverage from various sides, said they had tried to avoid pandering to critics.

"They don't want you to be balanced in your coverage," said Keller of The Times. "They want you to portray the morality of the war as they see it."

Added Banner of ABC News: "Our job is not to decide whether or not one side deserves more or less. Our job is to report the news."

New York Times News Service

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₱500-M repatriation . . .

From page A1

were not paying their salaries.

Roque told the budget hearing that the last 800 Filipino evacuees were transferred Sunday night from the Church of the Miraculous Medal in Beirut to Damascus in Syria, and would be arriving in two flights in Manila today.

ROQUE

Evacuation center empty

"So you have an evacuation center that is practically empty now?" Sen. Sergio Osmeña III asked.

"That's correct, Your Honor," Roque replied.

But Roque said embassy officials were not terminating the evacuation efforts.

Asked by Sen. Franklin Drilon, finance committee chair, how many more Filipinos they expected to evacuate and how much money was needed for that, Roque said it all depended on whether the ceasefire would hold.

"Also our embassy officers are taking time now to go house to house to take into custody, especially the problematic household workers that we have in Lebanon," he said.

Roque said that aside from the 800 Filipinos expected home today, 4,600 had been repatriated to the Philippines.

Owwa spending

He said the Owwa had spent P142 million for their repatriation and would need more than P100 million more.

He said the money came from the P500-million repatriation fund from the Owwa, approved by its board upon the request of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The P500 million that Malacañang is asking for Congress' approval is separate from the Owwa allocation and would come from the treasury, Andaya explained.

By a 169-0 vote, the Lower House last night passed the repatriation fund measure, which now goes to the Senate for its action.

"We delivered this bill as we promised last week," Speaker Jose de Venecia said.

Senators grilled the officials on whether they knew exactly how many Filipinos were in danger and should be repatriated.

"How many inside Beirut are in danger, as victims of war or hunger due to paralyzation of their economy because of the war? How many? Do we have this figure? We are discussing money here to appropriate and we do not have a basis for making a decision," Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said.

No more than 60 percent

Imson said the Department of Foreign Affairs was the lead agency in charge of the evacuation and repatriation efforts.

Imson said the DFA was working on 20,000 of the 30,000 Filipinos believed to be in Lebanon. He said 24,000 of them were documented.

"Our experience in the past is we've never gone beyond 60 percent (of the total number of Filipinos in a certain country) in our repatriation efforts," he said.

"What is our estimate of the stability of that ceasefire? My God, gentleman, please. You came here you must be prepared to answer questions, it can't be like this," Enrile said.

Osmeña noted that most of the Filipino workers did not want to leave Lebanon despite the dangers they were facing in the war zone.

"They have jobs and want to leave only when their lives are directly in danger because there are no jobs to be had at home," he said.

Andaya said the government was expecting more evacuees.

"You never know how long the ceasefire will last. We want to make sure that we have the funds for [the repatriation] if the need arises," Andaya told reporters during a break in the hearing.

Money for other calamities

Andaya said the government was sticking to the President's policy of evacuating all the Filipinos in Lebanon, and this policy remained despite the ceasefire. Thus, he said, Malacañang still wanted to have P500 million for their repatriation.

"Admittedly, as the Owwa said, there are only few (evacuees). But our position is for us not to run out of bullets in the middle of the road," he said.

He said the money was still needed for other calamities, including the needs of the Albay residents displaced by Mt. Mayon's eruptions.

"This is not exactly needed [just for Lebanon]. This is calamity fund. If there will be an excess amount, we have two volcanoes [for whose victims] we can use this fund. But we are specifically asking this for the repatriation of our OFWs," Andaya said.

Who gets credit?

Sen. Joker Arroyo noted that the President would get the credit for the repatriation fund.

"We (in Congress) appropriate and the President is the hero," he said.

"That's how the system works," Andaya replied.

As in the first budget hearing, Ms Arroyo's Cabinet attended in full force yesterday despite Malacañang's earlier policy to snub previous Senate hearings. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

GMA wants clean 'super projects'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WANTS all "super projects" that will be implemented in the super regions to withstand tough legal scrutiny to prevent them from going the way of the Amari reclamation project and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 (Naia 3) which are still mired in legal quagmire.

To ensure their smooth implementation and completion, the President has ordered key government agencies involved in the projects to beef up their legal teams by hiring good lawyers who could defend the projects from legal challenges.

"The President's order is clear—either you beef up your own legal team or if you can't just surrender your plantilla item and let the DOJ (Department of Justice) or OGCC (Office of Government Corporate Counsel) do the hiring," said Arthur Yap, chief of the Presidential Management Staff and the President's point man for Metro Luzon, one of the five super regions.

The government expects to spend roughly P370 billion over the next four years to build railways (P180 billion), roads (P90 billion), airports (P52 billion), seaports (P16 billion) and irrigation projects (P12.6 billion) as catalyst projects for the super region strategy.

"Some line agencies think that the DOJ or OGCC is their lawyers but the reason why they have their own budget items for legal services is for them to get good lawyers on their team," said Yap.

Yap, who was formerly head of the Department of Agriculture and National Food Administration, said that to make sure that any deal he entered into would not be stymied by legal challenges, "I also ask the opinion of the DOJ or OGCC aside from getting the view of my team."

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the biggest hurdle in attracting capital into the super projects was the government's poor track record in joint ventures with the private sector through the build-operate-and-transfer schemes.

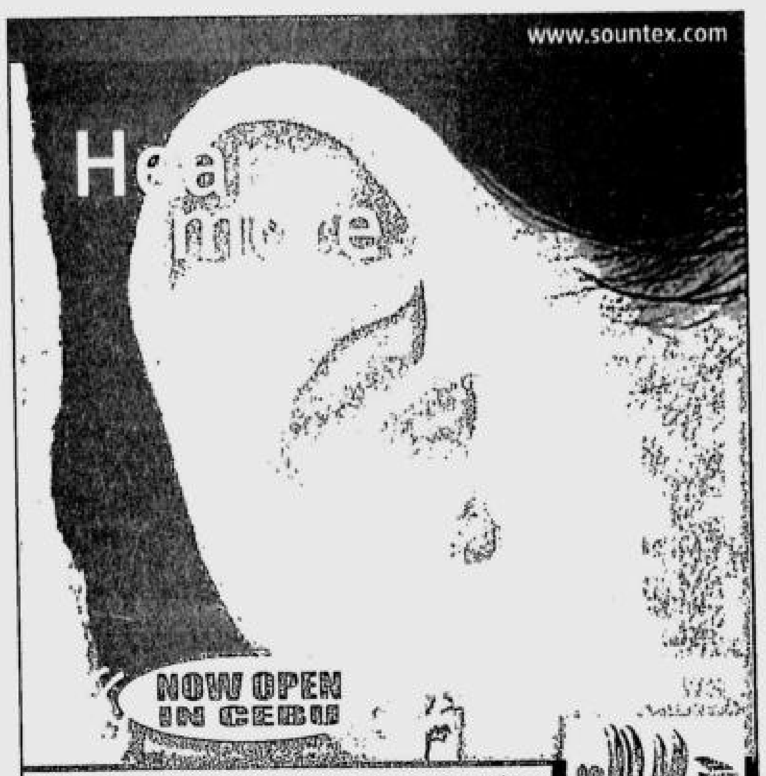
"The legal obstacles are the biggest problem in most of our projects that's why you have the Public Estates Authority Amari deal," said Neri, who noted that the deal got snagged only because the government did not sell the reclaimed property to a state corporation or a local government unit to make it patrimonial instead of selling it directly to the private sector.

"That's why the Supreme Court voided it because of legal carelessness."

Neri said this was the reason why Cabinet members should strengthen their legal staff so that all projects would be legally backed up.

"From the very beginning, we should study all legal issues because Philippine laws are so complex, they are numerous and full of pitfalls. This is why we get into legal troubles and our projects get delayed by congressional investigations. There will always be enough people around just to bring down any project," Neri said.

Another problem discouraging capital investments in the government was the slow processing of papers which the President hoped to address by forming an anti-Red Tape task force.



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Private firms back clearinghouse for vehicle insurance

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE COUNTRY'S TOP PRIVATE INSURERS have endorsed the proposal to set up a clearinghouse for all Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) insurance of private vehicles.

Winston Garcia, president of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), told the House committee on transportation in a recent hearing that 38 private insurance companies have already expressed interest in the proposed scheme.

Garcia told lawmakers the scheme would boost the income of private insurers since it would prevent the proliferation of fake CTPLs.

He said the CTPL model, particularly the one endorsed by the GSIS, would also provide better public accountability for insurance companies and better protection for car owners.

Aside from simplifying the process of filing claims for vehicular accidents, the proposed scheme would also allow the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pira) to solely issue CTPL for private vehicles.

The Pira proposed the creation of a clearing house where all Certificates of Cover would be validated and payment of premiums made through banks before one could register a vehicle.

A CTPL insures bodily injury or death resulting from vehicle accident for up to P50,000 per person. A car owner is required to get a CTPL before being issued a certificate of registration.

The GSIS has offered to cover all the CTPL insurance of private vehicles.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 15, 2006
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1st Reading: Rev 11:19; 12:1-6, 10
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:20-27
Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

Mary then set out for a town in the Hills of Judah. She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with holy spirit, and giving a loud cry, said, "You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. Blessed are you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!"

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit exults in God my savior!
He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness,
and people forever will call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me,
Holy is his Name!
From age to age his mercy extends
to those who live in his presence.
He has acted with power and done wonders,
and scattered the proud with their plans.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones
and lifted up those who are downtrodden.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He held out his hand to Israel, his servant,
for he remembered his mercy,
even as he promised our fathers,
Abraham and his descendants forever."

Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

Commentary

On this day we sing the song of Mary carrying Jesus, the Word of God made flesh among us. Called "The Magnificat"—it is the praise and glory of God, a litany of what God has done for his people from the beginning of time, remembering God's promises of life, and freedom. It is all about God and God's goodness to human beings and his goodness to Mary. And it is about the goodness that God will do for us in Jesus who is Life given to us: he will confuse the proud in their innermost hearts; he will depose the mighty and raise the lowly (without violence); he will feed those who are hungry, and send the rich away empty. These are the mighty deeds of God upon the earth. This is the child of the Book of Revelation. This is the child, the shepherd of the nations. This is how salvation comes.

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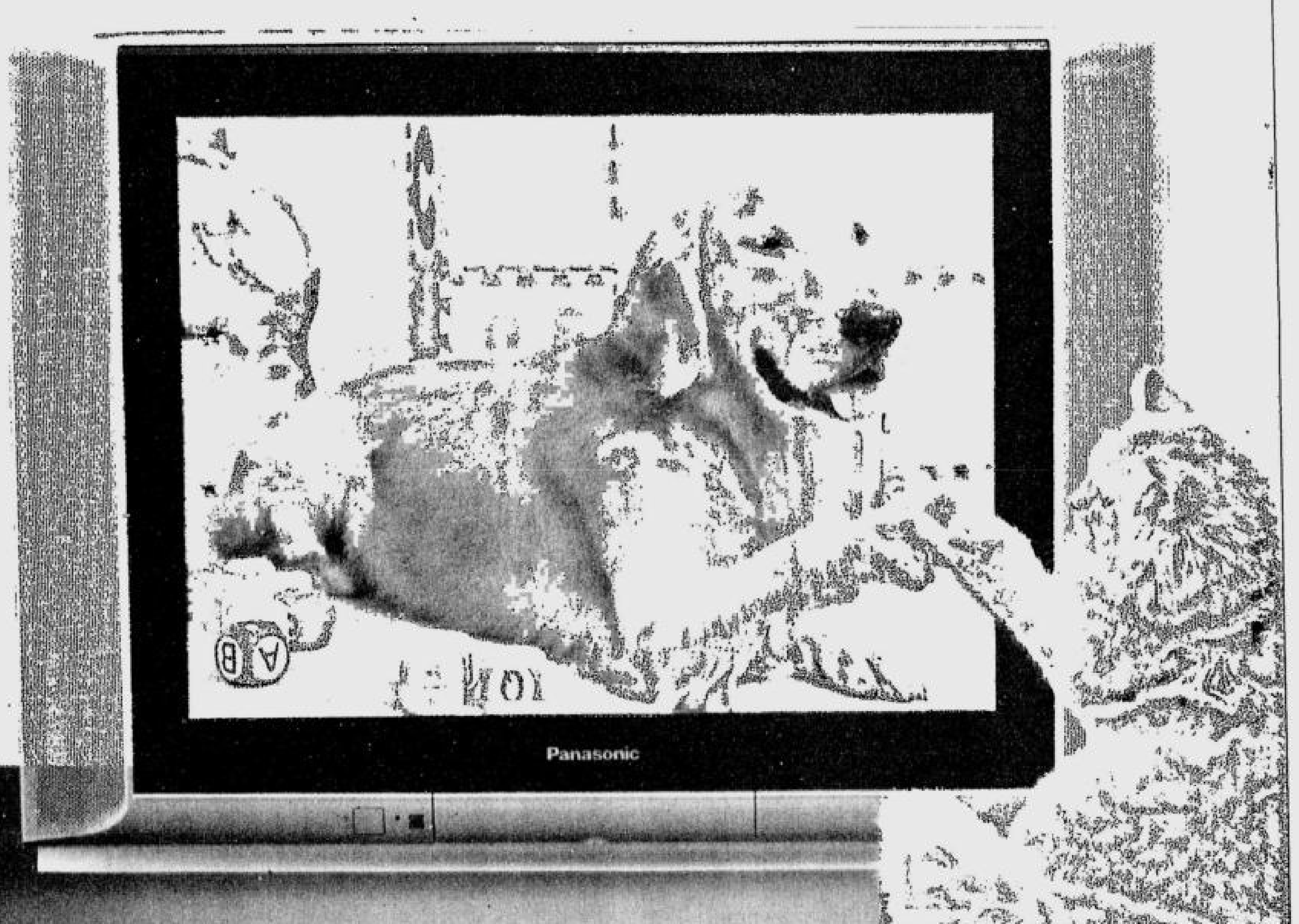

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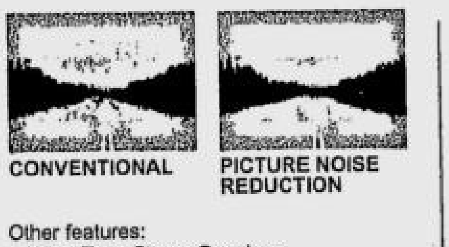

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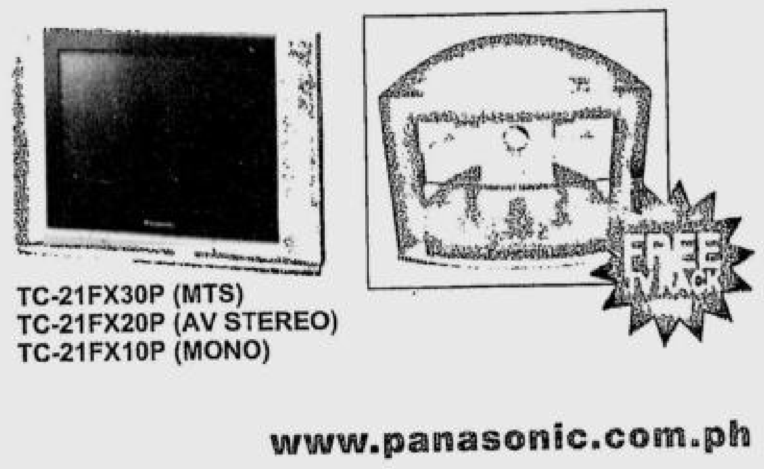

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Meaning of success

EDITORIAL

TAIPAN JOHN GOKONGWEI JR. DID A WARREN Buffett on his 80th birth anniversary last Friday, donating P10.25 billion to education and other causes.

In an interview, Gokongwei, who has certainly been a huge success in his public and private life, quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson in defining success: "… to leave the world a little better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success."

Gokongwei wants to leave the world a little better by giving a big part of his wealth to education, for obviously he believes that education plays an important role in changing the social and economic condition of the people. A Chinese-Filipino, he believes in the truth of the Chinese saying that "if you give a man a fish, he will eat for one day; if you teach him to fish, he will eat for life."

Rich men have always been attracted to philanthropy; it's their way of giving back to the people a part of the wealth that they amassed during their lives. In the United States, the fortunes of industrialists and entrepreneurs like Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller Sr., Henry Ford, J. Paul Getty and W.K. Kellogg have endowed some of the world's richest foundations.

Bill Gates, the richest man in the world with a net worth of $50 billion, has established the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which is devoting its funds and efforts to such causes as education and fighting diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria in developing countries. It was to the Gates Foundation that Buffett recently donated $37 billion of his $44-billion fortune.

In the Philippines, we have many rich and super-rich people. According to Forbes magazine, seven Filipinos rank among the 40 richest people in Southeast Asia: Lucio Tan, 12th; Henry Sy, 14th; Jaime Zobel de Ayala, 20th; Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., 31st; George Ty, 33rd; Gokongwei, 35th; and Tony Tan Caktiong, 37th. Forbes says three of them rank among the 500 richest in the world: Henry Sy and family, 355th; Tan, 387th; and Zobel de Ayala and family, 437th.

We are not lacking in rich and super-rich people who could do a Buffett or a Gokongwei. If they have not yet done so, we hope that they will recognize the terrible economic disparity between the rich and the poor in the Philippines. It has often been said that in our country 10 percent of the population controls 90 percent of the national income. These figures are even worse than those stated in the Pareto Principle.

Vilfredo Pareto, an Italian economist who studied the distribution of wealth in several countries in the 1900s, discovered a common phenomenon. His study disclosed that "about 80 percent of the wealth in most countries was controlled by a consistent minority—about 20 percent of the people." Pareto called this observation "predictable imbalance," and it later became known as the Pareto Principle or the 80:20 rule.

In the Philippines, the ratio is something like 90:10, indicating the depth of poverty in which the greater mass of the people is hopelessly mired. Hopelessly? No, erase that word. The future need not be hopeless if more people could be given a better education. And here is where the rich can help. Gokongwei has shown the way, and we hope that others in the economic elite will pitch in and donate substantial sums for the improvement of education in our country.

A P1-million donation can build about three new classrooms—probably even five, as some private organizations have found out. The same amount can pay for the annual salaries of about eight teachers. Or it can buy thousands of textbooks and other teaching materials that are perennially in short supply. Or it can be used for the further training and education of teachers.

The super-rich donors could explore the possibility of forming a foundation similar to the Gates Foundation that would be devoted solely to the improvement of Philippine education. A concerted, coordinated effort with substantial resources will help reverse the deterioration of the Philippine educational system. Ultimately, this will redound to the benefit of the national economy in general and of business and industry in particular.

To the prospective donors we commend the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary."

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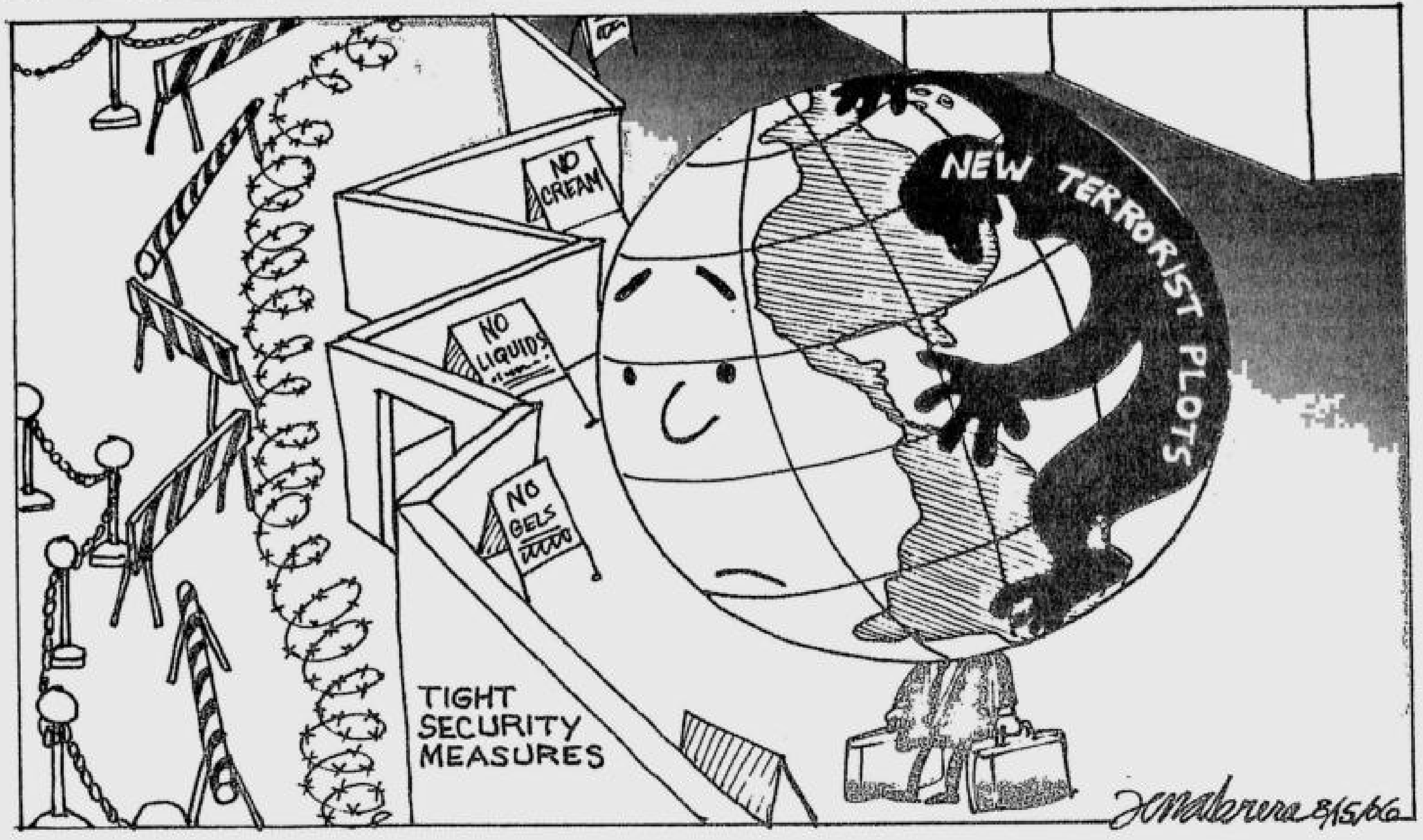


Memory of the heart

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

SOME PEOPLE KNOW INTIMATELY JOHN Gokongwei Jr., the taipan who gave away P10.25 billion on his 80th birthday. I don't. Our paths crossed only one-and-a-half times.

The half time came in February 1971. University of San Carlos cited eight alumni led by "JG." He couldn't make the rites due to a crammed schedule. But the P50-million grant he gave to USC this week should make up for that. I was among the eight. But assignments kept me in Kenya.

We met, years later, over lunch. On his invitation, I flew in from Bangkok, my United Nations station. He was finalizing what would be a costly painful exercise: Publishing the Manila Times. Would I join? he asked.

Three kids were in American universities then. Still in the queue were the younger two at Thailand's International High School. To scrub their UN educational benefits, for a second crack at journalism, was prohibitive. There were competent editors here, I said on declining.

Since then, many have tracked this orphan who peddled goods, from an old bicycle in World War II Cebu, to head the P41-billion JG Summit Holdings. His speeches made sense and good copy.

So did his 80th birthday address. In it, he said much of his donation would go to education, specially to schools that shaped him: De la Salle University, Ateneo de Manila University and USC. "Life has been good to me," he said. "I want to give back the blessings that I have received." His aim is "to leave the world a little better … to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived."

Inevitably, a flood of comment and comparisons will follow. Philanthropy has a patchy track record here. Other tycoons will endorse JG's decision. "It's no good having a pocketful of pesos if you can't spread a little sunshine," Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. told Australian businessmen who thanked him for donations, Sydney Morning Herald's racing reporter Max Presnell wrote.

Gratitude is memory of the heart. And the values that underpin this gift may ultimately be the more meaningful factor. It may lessen corrosive cynicism in a society where many leaders show, by their lives, that cash is the only yardstick.

Legal tender is law here. Doors open, depending on checkbook balances, car model and cosmetic surgeon's cell phone number. Value-from-bullion sets the pecking order at dinner tables. "Net worth equals self worth" is how a banker explains "pecuniary decency."

The possessions Gokongwei gave away apparently came from back-breaking work. They were not acquisitions squeezed from office. "An honest hand and a virtuous mouth take a person to distant lands," a Waray proverb says. Even before this lump-sum bequest, he already helped out De La Salle, Ateneo and other schools.

One wishes we could say the same for the student-less Muslim Youth Foundation of Joseph Estrada, let alone Ferdinand Marcos' shell foundations.

A society that enthrones ill-gotten opulence rewrites automatically its definition of necessity. We've seen that in 3,000 shoes and mansions for presidential concubines. Even Abu Sayyaf thugs, like the late Robot, Abu Sabaya or Global, jacked up demands for ransom, wives, guns, cell phones and Rayban sunglasses.

Given distorted priorities, it's no wonder that food, medicine, shelter—even human warmth—perennially run short. "There is enough for man's needs," Mahatma Ghandi once wryly observed. "But never enough for his greed."

Will others follow the Gokongwei pattern? "Man will not learn at any other school than example." *Abangan*.

But the grant already underscores one of the more significant—and least-heeded—provisions in the Constitution: "The use of property bears a social function." Goods of this world, whether cash, food, water, even talents and time, are meant for all. The socialite's right to a tiara ends where the right of a slum mother to milk for her wizened baby begins.

This model may also focus on how, away from the spotlight, ordinary citizens quietly share with the needy. Scan OFW Journalism Consortium reports. They document the burgeoning philanthropy from Filipinos abroad. The low-key Sen. Oscar Ledesma probably symbolized the best of generosity from turn-of-the-century landed old families.

Today's new elite comes mainly from middle-class professionals, notes Ateneo sociologist John Carroll, SJ. Lucio Tan, the Marcoses and Estradas, Villars, etc. are rooted, not in land, but power, acumen and money. "They are no more anxious to shake up the system than the *ilustrados* of the 1900s."

Gokongwei's break from "pecuniary decency" reminds one of Charles Feeney. The generosity of this self-effacing 76-year-old New Jersey businessman, as The New York Times' Maureen Dowd reports, surpasses that of better known philanthropists. At last count, he had given away $610 million (P31 billion) to hospitals, universities and, in Pope John Paul II's words, "life's wounded."

"Feeney's checks have cleared," Dowd writes. "Yet, he takes the subway, flies economy, shops for his own groceries. Feeney doesn't own a house, a car or a Rolex." (Remember Juan Ponce Enrile and martial law's "Rolex 12" colleagues?)

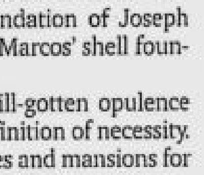
Dowd quotes Feeney as saying, "You can only wear one pair of shoes at a time." Dowd adds: "He acts on the idea that our pursuit of more of the stuff is silly. People need only what they need."

Examples ripple out. So, we haven't heard the last of Gokongwei's gift. Just as well. For "we make a living by what we get," Winston Churchill once wrote. "But we make a life by what we give away."

Logic 101

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO ERMITA says the computerization of election canvassing will make the counting of votes in the 2007 elections faster and cleaner. It won't eliminate cheating entirely, he said, but "I'm sure it will be minimized—the integrity of the elections will be recognized." Toward this end, he said, Malacañang is aggressively pushing for the use of Mega Pacific's counting machines. "We wish these things could be used because it is one of the wishes of the President."

What is wrong with that statement? Two things.

One is, why on earth would anyone, much less the presumptive president, even think of using the machines and/or services of Mega Pacific? If it hadn't been for Mega Pacific, whose winning bid was voided by the Supreme Court after it found it to have had no legal qualification to bid, and for the Comelec commissioners who to a man and woman awarded the prize to Mega Pacific though they probably knew it had no qualification to bid, the last elections would already have been computerized. Neither Mega Pacific nor any of the commissioners (the "probably" before "knew" is to allow that some of the commissioners made an honest mistake) has been punished for that heinous crime, which resulted in the restoration of the old, laborious and cheater-friendly ballot-box system and the continuation of rule of an unelected president.

It's bad enough that a culprit isn't punished. Do we have to reward him, too? But I can understand why that would be "one of the wishes of the President." She knows what it means to be a culprit and be rewarded.

Two, I agree wholeheartedly with Ermita's contention that computerization will make elections cleaner and faster. Yes, even in this country whose people seem to have a talent for getting around anything. Delay is an engraved invitation to cheating. The longer counting takes, the more likely it can be tampered with. Indeed, the more likely administration candidates can call up Garci or his equivalent and demand that they win by a million votes. I've been pushing for computerization from the start, having observed elections in other countries, where the winners are known within hours after the polling places close. That only highlights again the gravity of the crime the Comelec commissioners and Mega Pacific committed, for which they have not been punished.

But there is one thing more than computerization that will guarantee clean and honest elections in 2007. That is for us to have clean elections in 2004. Or since that is no longer possible, for us to correct the dirty and dishonest elections of 2004. Frankly, I don't know why we're even talking about how to make the 2007 elections clean when we're still laboring under the weight of elections that were not. We don't correct the 2004 elections, we won't have clean elections in 2007. We don't correct the 2004 elections, we will never have clean elections even after 2007.

What's to prevent administration candidates from using government funds to campaign, talking to Comelec officials, and tinkering with the counting machines (most of them can't be cracked from the outside, only from the inside) so that they can win by a million votes or—greed having no limits—more? History shows all you have to do is say you made a lapse in judgment and apologize. And go on as your punishment to seize the position and silence activists and protesters, preferably permanently.

We don't correct the 2004 elections, we can forget about elections. They won't mean a thing. The purpose of elections is for us to have the leaders we elect. We don't get them anyway, let's trash the trash. We have no lack of less expensive and more amusing forms of entertainment. "Philippine Idol" is one of them. The winners there win honestly.

That's the reason I've been calling for "snap elections" since the "Hello Garci" tape came out. It's the only way to correct the 2004 elections. It's the only way to restore faith in elections. There are two ways to go about it: You can either call for snap elections before the 2007 elections, or if that's too expensive, include the position of president in the 2007 elections. Otherwise we'll just have the kind of elections Ferdinand Marcos trotted out during martial law, the *zarzuelas* (my profoundest apologies to the zarzuelistas who produced grand music in their works) that nobody took seriously. For good reason: They were being held under the auspices of an illegitimate leader who was murdering people across the country with help from thugs in military uniform to prop up his illegitimate rule.

I'm almost tempted to mount a signature campaign in this respect, if nobody else will. I have no doubt I can get more signatures in one week than the proponents of Cha-cha have gotten in one year. There is no clamor to change a perfectly genuine Charter, there is a clamor to change a perfectly fake president. Never mind the survey figures that show the majority of Filipinos believe the wrong president is living in Malacañang, mind only the survey figures that show the majority of Filipinos no longer find hope in this country and want to live elsewhere.

A signature campaign for snap presidential elections on or before 2007 could give them hope.

* * *

Tonight is Bicol Poets Night at Conspiracy and James Taylor Night at '70s Bistro—whichever is your cup of tea. You can always shuttle to one and the other and get to have your cake and eat it, too, get to have your poets and folk it, too. Those places can do with some help. The whole country is feeling the pinch; everyone I talk to says business is the pits this year. At least last year, they still made some money. This year, *nada*. A lot of places have already closed. Be patriotic. Do your bit for God and music.

A very political issue

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHEN FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY ROBERTO Romulo invited my husband and me to be guests at the 10th anniversary conference of the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac) that he chairs, which was held last weekend in Cebu City, I wondered if it would be interesting to a journalist who has covered political events in this country for nearly 25 years. I felt that the "core principles" of Apec, such as a "strong and open multilateral trading system; open regionalism; free and open trade and investment, and trade facilitation," might not be as interesting as political issues such as Charter change, the impeachment pending in the House of Representatives, or the relevance of the Senate, the passage of the 2007 budget, etc.

But I'm glad I accepted the invitation of Romulo, who was the founding chair of Abac in 1996, when the Philippines, then under President Fidel V. Ramos, hosted the third Apec Summit at the Subic Bay Freeport. For not only did I learn a lot from the two-day anniversary conference at Mactan Shangri-La Hotel. It soon became clear that Apec, Abac and issues such as the "impending demise" of the World Trade Organization (WTO), free trade agreements (FTAs) and "bilateral vs multilateral arrangements" are not just economic issues, they have become highly political issues too among nations, as evidenced by the fierce and hot debates among the conferees, especially on the second day.

* * *

The 10th anniversary of Abac was an occasion for its members to continue the mid-term stocktaking on how Apec has fared vis-à-vis the "Bogor Goals," which were first proposed at the organizational summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in Seattle in 1993, led by US President Bill Clinton, and completed and approved in the second summit in Bogor, Indonesia. A significant conclusion was that while the Bogor Goals remain valid, the trade and investment policy landscape has changed considerably in the past 10 years. And more important developments are fast cropping up, such as the indefinite suspension of the Doha Round of GATT.

Thus, the main issue on the table for the Abac members' consideration, hopefully to be resolved before the summit of 21 Apec leaders this November in Hanoi, Vietnam, was whether Apec is proceeding according to its avowed goals or it is being derailed. Interestingly, before the debates on this main issue began, the French moderator Guy de Jonquieres of the Financial Times, challenged the Abac members to show their true sentiments on this core issue. About a dozen members raised their hands in support of the 13-year-old Apec and its way of doing things. More than a dozen indicated that they did not feel it was okay. But a far larger group had no opinion on the issue, which doesn't bode well for the multilateral organization.

* * *

An offshoot was the observation among some members that while Apec seemed to be losing its relevance or timeliness, or perhaps because of it, many member-economies have pursued free trade arrangements or agreements (FTAs) with other countries within Apec. For instance, Singapore alone has concluded FTAs with seven Apec nations. The US itself has been concluding FTAs with other Pacific Rim nations, as well as with countries across the Atlantic and the Americas. So has China. Some Abac members opined that the proliferation of FTAs among Apec members, which are perhaps not even known to the Apec leaders, has produced a good deal of chaos which can only get worse. A favorite metaphor at the Mactan conference was the "spaghetti bowl" of FTAs—all mixed up and confusing. There are 41 FTAs within Apec, and counting, whereas in the European Union, there is only one.

* * *

The reality that emerged from this "mid-term stocktaking" was that if Apec is to remain relevant, its structure must be revitalized in a more dynamic and responsive way toward today's "more complex and integrated business environment and the changing policy landscape." President Macapagal-Arroyo, who keynoted last Saturday morning's opening session, advised the delegates to confront "new realities" such as the rise of China and India and problems involving the security of communities, natural disasters and the supply of crucial elements like minerals and fuel. GMA also asked the delegates to bear in mind the Middle East crisis and the "WTO debacle" arising from the suspension of the "Doha Round" about two weeks ago over agricultural tariffs, which an Abac delegate described as putting the WTO "somewhere between the ICU and the crematorium—dying but not quite dead yet."

* * *

At the Cebu conference, some speakers said the proliferation of FTAs in Apec, an indication of rising protectionism which the WTO precisely sought to stop, called for some form of regulation. Without this, it was argued, the countries cannot exist. And in the impending collapse of the WTO, it seems that the idea of having a Free Trade Agreement for Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), to serve as a kind of umbrella organization for Apec's economies, is being talked about these days. It's being presented as "Plan B" in case of a total collapse of the WTO.

* * *

Some Abac members argued that such an agreement is the best way to strengthen Apec and that perhaps it might push the dying Doha Round back to life. China is said to be pushing for FTAAP in order to edge out the US from Asia. The US, however, is expected to fight this proposed structure as it's very concerned about its $200-billion trade imbalance with China and perceptions about its aim of economic and political hegemony over Asia. Some members who don't like FTAAP also argue that such a grouping would only divide Apec members into the "Asia only" as against the "Americas only," creating new discord and discrimination in the Pacific Rim, and heightening protectionism further. (*To be continued.*)

Pass or fail?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY TODAY, PERHAPS EVEN AS YOU READ THIS, several Philippine NGOs will be presenting to the Cedaw Committee of the United Nations their "shadow reports" on the state of women's rights in the Philippines. The Philippine delegation will have its turn to present the official government report tomorrow (Aug. 15 in New York).

Cedaw stands for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, otherwise known as the "international women's bill of rights." This year, in fact, marks the 25th anniversary of the convention's coming into force, though few know about its provisions, or even about its existence.

One of the special features of the Cedaw is that signatory states, of which the Philippines is one, are obligated to report periodically before a committee of 23 experts from around the world on the steps their governments have taken to implement its provisions, specifically in respecting, promoting and protecting the human rights of women. This is what the Philippines is doing in New York, and where before the "shadow reports" of women's NGOs were merely distributed to the delegates and presented in NGO forums, this year, the presentation of shadow reports—which often contain information contradicting the government's claims, or else interpret them differently—has been made part of the main proceedings.

The reporting process is one way by which governments are held accountable to the international community. And while the Cedaw committee has no "police powers," it is expected to issue "concluding observations" at the end of each reporting session. The observations basically contain recommendations to the reporting governments on how to improve their compliance with Cedaw provisions, as well as comments on existing laws and policies in each country.

Will the Philippine government, or at least the Arroyo administration, receive a favorable assessment from the Cedaw committee? Or will it be "shamed" into admitting that under a woman President, women in the Philippines are worse off than ever before?

* * *

LEADING the RP delegation to the Cedaw meet is Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, with National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women Chair Myrna Yao as co-head, and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippine Mission to the UN Bayani Mercado as alternate head of delegation. Members of the delegation include Cabinet undersecretaries, NCRFW commissioners and experts on women's issues.

To my knowledge, seven local NGOs are in New York and scheduled to appear before the committee. Among them is a consortium led by the 3RG and Engender Rights whose shadow report focuses on the failure—or rather, refusal—of the Arroyo administration to respect the sexual and reproductive rights of Filipino women, mainly by a policy of promoting and exclusively funding a single family planning method because it's the only one on which Catholic bishops look with favor.

Clare Padilla, a lawyer with Engender Rights, says they will be bringing up in their report the issue of separation of Church and State, which is being violated by the government when it favors a single religion and tailors health policies to accommodate the Church's concerns; and the denial of reproductive health services in certain localities (the city of Manila) and because of age (as in Makati, where adolescents reportedly cannot avail themselves of reproductive health services).

* * *

DURING a recent media briefing on the Cedaw and the reporting process, the issue of Cedaw's "relevance" was brought up. How can an international document, even one that is legally binding and which has won wide international consensus behind it, help improve women's lives?

It won't be the document itself that might help, it was pointed out, but rather the political will of the people tasked to implement its provisions, preferably backed by local laws and policies. Key to this, said Cedaw expert and NGO representative on the Philippine delegation Aurora "Oyie" de Dios, is to educate law enforcers, lawyers and police on Cedaw and the ways by which it could be applied to local issues.

"Even in law school very few professors knew about international conventions and their applicability here," notes Padilla, a UP law graduate. Indeed, Cedaw has been cited only once in a decision by a judge, to the knowledge of the panel members, and this in a case of job discrimination lodged by female flight attendants of PAL.

But what can you expect when judges don't even seem to know enough about local laws? Padilla cites the almost routine violation of protection orders issued by barangay officials and courts against abusive husbands and the refusal of judges to issue contempt charges against the violators. This, despite the clear mandate of the law against violence against women and their children.

* * *

THE POINT of the Cedaw reporting process is ultimately not about who trumps whom. Or about putting the country in a bad light, or winning favorable comments from the Cedaw committee, to be trumpeted as yet another endorsement for GMA. The point is that the reporting being done these two days in the UN focuses attention on women's issues in the Philippines, and what government is doing—or not doing—to address women's concerns and promote women's rights and welfare. It's a rare opportunity to talk about the role of women in our national life, and how laws and policies help or hamper our full participation in it.

The Cedaw provides us a checklist by which we can judge the performance of government vis-à-vis women, with no need to resort to rhetoric or sentiment. Do we pass or fail?

Europe's naturalized killers

WORLD VIEW

Tzvetan Todorov

EUROPE NOW SEEMS TO BE THE PRIME TARget of Islamist terrorists. The arrest of 21 British Muslims for conspiring to blow up airlines crossing the Atlantic underscored, once again, the growing sense of dread and inevitability that is rooted in the homegrown nature of the threat. But what do we really know about these killers among us?

We know, of course, the broad outline of their all-encompassing fundamentalism, and we have some vague ideas about Al-Qaida as a decentralized network of cells in many countries that seeks to acquire chemical, biological, and perhaps even nuclear weapons. We also know their leaders' long-term goals: To seize power in Muslim countries and attack the Western states that support secular regimes in the Islamic world. Finally, we also know that the leaders of this fanatical tide are few, but now have the sympathy of millions of ordinary Muslims.

There have always been fanatical individuals ready to die and kill in the name of their beliefs. But they seem far more dangerous nowadays as a result of technological advances that have "democratized" bomb making. After all, as the London and Madrid bombings demonstrated, a cell phone is all that is needed to time an explosion, or a series of explosions, with deadly efficiency.

Our freedoms and social fluidity also contribute to the threat. People move about the globe cheaply and with relative ease. Immigrants can establish themselves in new societies, and in democratic states they can live completely free of supervision. Our freedoms are their tools.

So how do we fight such an amorphous enemy?

US President George W. Bush has demonstrated one way not to do it: His attack on Iraq shows that directly attacking Muslim states only fuels fanaticism. Of course, civilized countries should not give up the fight against extremist Islam because of the bloodshed in Iraq; but we must recognize that war, occupation, and forced submission to military power have merely caused mass humiliation and resentment among many ordinary Muslims—emotions that are then channeled into terrorist networks. British Prime Minister Tony Blair can loudly proclaim that the London bombings are unrelated to Britain's participation in the Iraq war, but the terrorists themselves, once arrested, say exactly the opposite.

Indeed, here is how one of the Madrid bombers described the psychological preparation to which he had been submitted: His leader "made us watch DVDs showing pictures of war in Iraq, mostly pictures of women and children killed by American and British soldiers." There is also no shortage of images of abused prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison or the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, which have likewise done more to recruit new adherents to Islamic fanaticism than any sermon in a radical mosque.

Simply put, bombs dropped from several thousands meters do not kill less indiscriminately than explosive charges placed in train cars. Acknowledging this is not to excuse terrorism, but it is a first step toward understanding terrorism's underlying causes, and thus toward their elimination.

Above all, it is to acknowledge that democratic societies must use both political and police tactics in confronting fanatical terrorists. Politics is necessary for the simple reason that occupying armies and police cannot force hundreds of millions of Muslims to shed their hostility.

Political action implies actually leaving Iraq quickly and finding a fair solution to the Palestinian conflict, which in turn requires ending the occupation of all Palestinian territories. Of course, extinguishing these hot spots will not erode the fanaticism of diehard and suicidal activists; nor will it rid us of the avidity and hatred that are so evident among the leaders of Islamic rage. But it will deprive them of the masses of sympathetic Muslims who view the fanatics as the only people seeking to defend "Islamic" values and oppressed Muslim peoples.

Policing is the second part of any effective strategy. Greater efforts at infiltrating terror networks are needed, as is a deeper knowledge of the social structures created by the terrorists, in order to block their financial support. This may mean eliminating shadowy "tax havens," tapping phone lines, and identifying individuals considered highly dangerous. Police actions must be merciless, even if this means more controls and surveillance. It is precisely to prevent the development of a collective security fear that we need to alter the equilibrium between security and freedom.

While the European Union lags behind the United States in terms of conventional weapons, its capacity to fight terrorism is probably higher. For historical reasons, Europe benefits from a political maturity that has allowed it to avoid Bush's Manichean world view, which has merely reinforced, rather than undermined, the enemy's fanaticism. Moreover, for geographical reasons, Europe also benefits from a better knowledge of Arab and Muslim countries and extensive familiarity with their populations.

The European Union can and must prevail in this fight and in the defense of the values that it cherishes. It might even find, along the way, a new and urgently needed motivation to reinforce its fraying unity. *—Project Syndicate*

Tzvetan Todorov, director of research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris, is the author most recently of "Hope and Memory."

Pluses and minuses

YOUNG BLOOD

Valarie Ku-Pineda

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I RECENTLY GAVE AN INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE DURING the orientation for freshmen conducted by the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Engineering. After the message, the dean said she hoped the freshmen would look up to me as an example of someone who had achieved so much just five years after leaving the university.

None of the almost 1,000 people in the auditorium knew how confused my life is at the moment. I have big decisions to make, I have to readjust to being back in the Philippines and being with my husband again. There are family problems. I am riding an emotional roller coaster.

Instant flashback: Before I graduated from college, I had bagged a lot of student awards. One of them, Ayala Young Leader, instilled in my mind the message that "To whom much is given, much is expected in return." Yes, I had countless blessings: I graduated summa cum laude, placed No. 4 in the board exam and was selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines. For my graduation, my great-grandfather gave me a townhouse in a nice area. Within five years of finishing college, I earned a master's degree from De La Salle University (with high distinction), had my thesis published in an international journal, got married, landed a great job and got cross-posted to the United Kingdom for two years, and traveled to 22 countries mostly for leisure. Best of all, I am expecting our first child.

But for each of these, I had to go through some sort of hell. "Much is expected in return" is actually a shorter, and less accurate, version of the saying. "Much is expected in return before you actually get anything" seems to be the right one.

My parents separated when I was 10, leaving me with my gambling father who was unemployed. For 20 years of my life, I lived in a rat- and cockroach-infested old building, after which I lived in Tondo for a year and a half. At age 11, I suffered the humiliation of being confronted by a finger-wagging lady who said my father owed her P10,000. I got my education through scholarships and some loans here and there.

I had to defend my decision to marry a Filipino and not a Chinese not only before my father but, silently, before the community where I grew up. It seemed like everyone there saw marriage to a fellow Chinese as the magical potion that would assure me of financial security.

I went to school for my master's degree after office hours to relax myself and forget all the worries in my brain. I went to the United Kingdom as a newlywed but without my husband because he had his own flourishing career as a dentist. I used traveling as some sort of therapy to get me through the whole two years.

I lived a very frugal existence because I wanted to save money since I was always frightened by the thought that another rainy day might come. My best friend calls me a hoarder, but I am just so afraid to relive the life I had to go through as a gambler's daughter.

I had a miscarriage while I was in the UK, alone, and had to go through the excitement of having to bring myself to a hospital and back. I never missed a day of work.

Now, back home, some lies that my family has kept hidden from me have surfaced. My father continues to live the same gambling lifestyle, which really shouldn't surprise me. I constantly pray for the strength to forgive.

My closest friends have moved to other countries. My husband and I continue to have a weekend relationship because he lives and works three hours from Manila. Once I had to drive myself to and from St. Luke's Hospital when I had an allergy attack while pregnant because my husband was three hours away.

Because I am human and I have shown a part of myself, some people at work think I'm all *me*. Never politically eloquent, the gods of the grapevine say I have committed some big career faux pas and my glory days are over. The thing is, I have never been pretentious and I have gotten through most of life being honest and being me. These judges will never know how I have spent my life up to now trying hard not to end up with the same sob story that the rest of my family has. The company has asked me to accept a developmental assignment that would require me to be in the Visayas or Mindanao, away from my husband and future son for another two years with no immediate benefit but the hope of "long-term advancement."

A friend says that I have always been very lucky, unlike her who still needs to land a job in the United States after investing two years in earning a master's degree. She says something like winning P200,000 on a plane ride (which has happened to me) never happens to her.

But I always think that her life has been very simple, devoid of the complicated choices and the dramatic moments that I have had to endure. I have this theory that if we all added up the pluses and minuses in our lives, we would end up with the same sum—everything evens out.

Sometimes I feel so old at 27, but I guess I would still choose this roller coaster of a life that I have had so far. To be honest, I still think that this phase is just like "Much is expected in return before you get anything." And what am I complaining about? For 22 years, I went through hell all by myself, and now I have my husband to help me go through it, although I feel guilty that his life has become unnecessarily complicated because of me.

I still have not made up my mind whether to accept my new job assignment or look for another job. Hell, I haven't even finished unpacking all the things I brought home from the UK and they are asking me to leave my family again—of course, all for my own good and in return for a potentially bright and rosy career in the far future. I hope that in that far future, I'd look at this moment of my life as a "minus" with a big "plus" to counter it.

Valarie Ku-Pineda, 27, is a business analyst for a multinational company.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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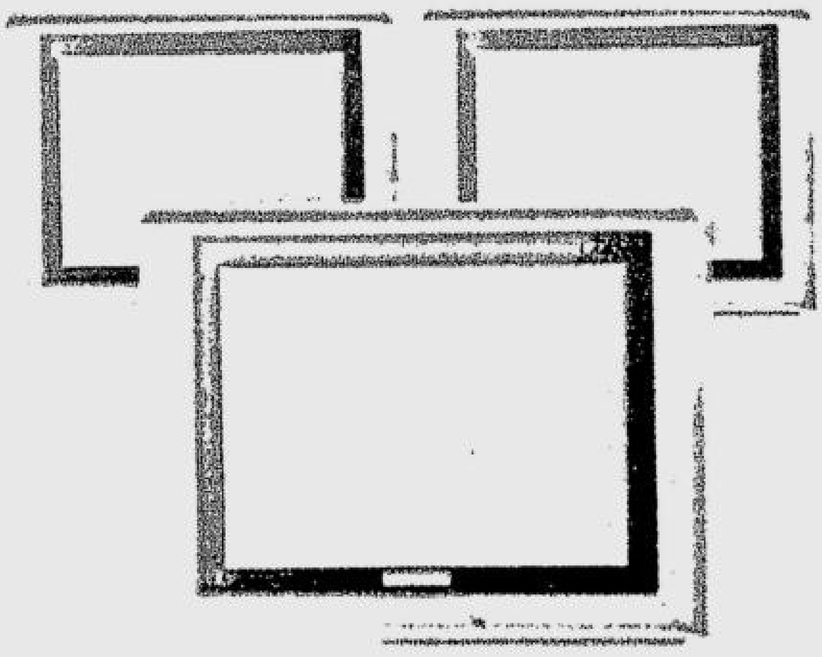

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US' only 'guilt' in Lebanon

LETTERS

THE INQUIRER EDITORIAL OF AUG. 2 joined a chorus of anti-American detractors who believe the United States is guilty of "letting" Israel decide when enough is enough in its ongoing rout of Hezbollah strongholds in southern Lebanon.

Like their Palestinian, Iranian, Syrian and Iraqi counterparts, Hezbollah is a radical Muslim group which believes that the Jewish state needs to disappear from the face of the earth.

Mindful of America's disgraceful non-reaction to Hitler's round-up of European Jews during World War II, no US president after Franklin Delano Roosevelt, including Geoge W. Bush, will ever again dare turn a blind eye to threats directed at Jewish extermination.

Only this time the Israelis are by themselves supremely capable of "taking care of business" militarily, with a wink and a nod from their chief benefactors—the US government and America's powerful Jewish community, not to mention the rest of the civilized world, including the Philippines, as far as I know.

In my opinion, the only end game possible in this crisis is the permanent reestablishment of Israel's territorial integrity and of the right of the Jews as a people to exist as a state and to live normal lives in peace.

If the United States is "guilty" of anything, it is in pussyfooting—in not being vocal enough—in its support of Israel's other right: to spoil by overwhelming (US-style) preemptive force the genocidal dreams of extremists who want the entire Middle East to themselves.

—ELLIOTT ANDERSON,
PO Box 2769 Ozamiz City

FVR not in elites' secret dialogues

WE WRITE IN CONNECTION WITH THE Aug. 7 column, titled: "Elites bid to seal nation's fate in secret dialogues," of Amando Doronila. It referred to a "secret workshop" held at the Ramon Magsaysay Center last July 30-31, which "followed closely a secret think tank discussion initiated by former President Fidel V. Ramos."

As usual, Doronila's column was quite interesting, more so, with so much details such as—the format of the meeting, the names of the facilitator as well as the 30 or so participants, what was said by some, the date of the next meeting, etc. Indeed, a surprising abundance of information on a "secret" event.

But please allow us to correct what must have been a wrong information received by the columnist. Former President Ramos did not initiate or participate in the "secret" workshop or in any prior think-tank discussion.

FVR received a letter-invitation from Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (delivered to him by former agrarian reform secretary, and now AIM professor, Ernesto Garilao, together with a book by Adam Kahane titled "Solving Tough Problems").

On the same letter, FVR wrote his replv:

"(1) Thank you for your kind invitation. Regretfully, I shall not be able to join you due to other commitments, previously scheduled, same time frame. I enclose just FYI my article for 30 July (Sun) in the Sunday Bulletin." (The article referred to was about the current Israeli-Hezbollah conflict.)

"(2) I especially appreciate Adam's book. Mabuhay!"

The reply was sent by fax to Archbishop Lagdameo on July 27; a copy was also given to former Secretary Garilao. In fine, FVR's "involvement" did not go beyond his handwritten note, declining the invitation to the so-called "secret" dialogue.

—NICK LAGUSTAN,
FVR spokesman,
26/F Exportbank Plaza,
Gil Puyat cor. Chino Roces Avenue,
Makati City 1200

Unmask losing GOCC

I FIND THE AUG. 8 COLUMN OF CONRADO Banal III interesting but at the same time alarming. It would have been more interesting if Banal divulged the identity of this GOCC (government-owned and -controlled corporation). But it would be alarming indeed if President Macapagal-Arroyo and the concerned Malacañang officials are aware of how this GOCC is being managed and yet don't do anything about it.

According to Banal, one of the highly compensated executives of this "losing" company is very close to someone in the Palace. It is not really difficult to imagine how a company, which earned over P1 billion last year, could register losses of over P2 billion. The exposé of Banal—the indecently fat pay checks and unlimited expense allowances that these executives receive monthly on top of expensive cars that consume a lot of gasoline—calls for a legislative investigation.

The public, especially the taxpayers, should start to worry if this GOCC is being subsidized by the government because here could be a classic case of corruption in the government. I also start to wonder what the projects of this GOCC are and how beneficial these projects are to the public.

Can Congress please look into this?

—EDUARDO ESGUERRA ELIAS,
56 Osmeña St., Xavierville Subd.,
Diliman, Quezon City

Super visions

THE VISION OF "SUPER REGIONS" IS DEFINITELY quite titillating, even thought-provoking. It calls to mind the past, especially among those born in 1929 (now age 76) who became a voter in 1949.

When Elpidio Quirino became president in 1949, his vision for our country was total economic mobilization, derided by his critics as "economic 'tontolization.'" Nothing came out of this grand vision.

In 1953, Ramon Magsaysay was elected president. For once, the masses had a champion, and was hailed as the "guy" who stopped the communists in their tracks. But Magsaysay, together with his dreams for our country, perished in a plane crash in Cebu.

He was succeeded by Carlos Garcia who espoused the "Filipino First policy." But it sadly turned out that his policy was only for a few cronies and a few Filipino businessmen who maneuvered that they should be the first to benefit from the Filipino First policy, leaving the rest of the nation, especially the masses, to wallow in misery—as usual.

Came Diosdado Macapagal, with his moral regeneration program. But instead, we became a nation of smugglers. Instead of moral regeneration, it was moral degeneration, his critics decried.

Came another brilliant Filipino leader, a bar topnotcher. On the battle cry "This nation can be great again," Ferdinand Marcos trounced Macapagal, and was elected president in 1965.

Did our nation become great again? Ask those whose businesses were gobbled up by the predatory cronies of Marcos.

After the Marcos era, came these centerpiece national programs: community development, rural development, industrialization, local autonomy, decentralization (replayed circa 2006).

From 1949 to 2006, or over half-a-century period, we still talk the same talk: rural development, local autonomy, decentralization.

Rewind: In the 1960s, our country was second only to Japan in terms of growth and development in the entire Asia. Now, we rank second only to Bangladesh, at the bottom.

And to this Bicolano, the Bicol region is still depressed and disadvantaged as ever, second only to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which is at the bottom of the totem pole of development.

From one who saw these national "visions" go puff and turn into nothing but a passing mirage or fantasy, can you blame or condemn me now if I, like many of us, no longer have faith in the so-called "super visions"? Especially because we do not have the wherewithal to fund the projects or because our public debt now runs to trillions?

The more crucial question is: Who will benefit the most from the projects? The masses, also derided by the elite as the *descamisados*, or the elite themselves, also known as the present-day *illustrados, compradors* and *encomienderos*?

—EDMUNDO H. ESCALANTE,
past president,
Integrated Bar of the Philippines,
Sorsogon Chapter

A Rotarian should be man enough to face truth

ROTARIAN JIMMY CURA'S COMMENT that Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante hasn't failed the Rotary's 4-Way Test (PDI, 7/30/06) is indeed unfortunate because I believe it does not reflect the true sentiments of the Rotarians in the Philippines who think Bolante should be man enough to come forward and tell the whole truth.

Because Bolante has not been truthful, he has been unfair to the thousands of farmers who depend on their land for livelihood. Had it been properly used, the fertilizer fund could have been beneficial not only to the farmers' families but to the country as well. And certainly by not telling the truth, Bolante has created a lot of ill-will, not goodwill, among his countrymen—particularly among thousands of farmers' children whose daily subsistence depends on their parents' harvest.

—JOSELITO SANTOS,
jslto@yahoo.com

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Miriam seeks probe of 'illegal, immoral' takeover of Poro port

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-Santiago yesterday filed a resolution asking the Senate to investigate the government's takeover of port operations at Poro Point in La Union.

The administration senator said the takeover was "unconstitutional, illegal and immoral" and reflects a police state.

Santiago, in her resolution, said she wants the Senate committee on environment to investigate the "abusive behavior" of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Coast Guard and Philippine National Police personnel assigned to La Union.

She made no mention of the allegations the forcible takeover was at the behest of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who helped depose President Joseph Estrada and install President Macapagal-Arroyo to power.

Earlier reports said it was Singson who pushed for the government takeover. He denied the allegation.

Santiago said the takeover of the private operations of the Poro Point Industrial Corporation (PPIC) and Bulk Handlers Inc. was suspicious because it was in defiance of the temporary restraining order issued by a regional trial court in San Fernando, La Union.

SIGNS of a police state, according to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, appear at the gates of the Poro Point Industrial Corp. as government agents barricade it during a takeover bid.
TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

But she said the Philippine Ports Authority, "in a highly questionable and suspicious maneuver" created a PPA-San Fernando Port Services to manage the seaport a day after the EMB "swooped down on the seaport" and served a cease-and-desist-order allegedly due to lack of an environmental compliance certificate.

She noted media reports that the "suspicious memoranda and notices were served by armed personnel and agents who forced their way into the seaport, resulting in uncontrollable violence and physical injuries."

"... (T)he incidence of violence and apparent brutal flouting of the rule of law is indicative of a police state or a military state, without any explanation of the legal basis for such unconstitutional, illegal and immoral means," Santiago said in her resolution.

Lawyer Brigido Dulay, legal counsel of the PPIC, said in a statement that the "hastiness of the release of the CDO makes it highly suspect and evidently was done without due process."

The statement quoted Dulay as questioning the timing of the CDO, saying it came shortly after the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court issued an injunction against BCDA and PPMC stopping the takeover bid.

"This seems to indicate that the DENR move was just part of the whole takeover plot and may have been meant to circumvent the court order," Dulay was quoted as saying.

"We have been operating the port for so long. Why is it only now that DENR wants us to stop what we are doing?" he said.

The DENR regional office in Ilocos Sur denied it had a hidden agenda in issuing a cease and desist order against the operations of the PPIC at the Poro Point port.

In the statement, Dulay said the PPIC has "religiously observed the principles and procedures of sound environmental management."

He said the PPIC has installed a shore reception facility for waste at the pier. The waste deposited in the facility, he said, is regularly collected by the Barangay Poro Garbage Disposal Unit and disposed of at the city's sanitary landfill.

Dulay also quoted Ric Esteban, an officer of the Environmental Management Bureau, as saying the PPIC needed no separate ECC since the port had been operating since 1982 when an ECC was not required for port operations.

ECC issued in 2000 for Poro operations

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAN FERNANDO CITY—A PORT operator at the Poro Point presented a copy of an environmental clearance certificate that it said covered its operations contrary to charges that it was operating without an ECC.

The Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) presented the ECC, issued in May 2000 by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles, as the DENR regional office denied it had a hidden agenda in shutting down the port operations.

"We have no ulterior motive, no hidden agenda," said Victor Ancheta, regional executive director of the Ilocos office of the DENR.

The DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) issued a cease and desist order to stop the port operations on Aug. 4.

Joel Salvador, Environment Management Bureau director, challenged the PPIC to expose the "hidden agenda" of the DENR in issuing the CDO.

Earlier, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson was tagged as the brains in the takeover, an accusation that he denied. Singson was instrumental in the rise to power of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001.

"Our concern is purely environmental," said Salvador.

"We are not stopping them from getting the ECC that will guide them in how to mitigate environmental problems," Salvador said.

Double jeopardy

But the PPIC, in a statement, said its operations are covered by the ECC that was issued in 2000 by the DENR to the BCDA for the entire Poro Point.

The statement quoted lawyer Brigido Dulay, the PPIC legal counsel, as saying the PPIC "is a joint venture partner of BCDA and therefore did not require an ECC separate from that which was already given to the Poro Point (economic) zone."

"Only locators within the zone are required to obtain separate ECCs," the statement said.

San Fernando Mayor Mary Jane Ortega said she asked Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to act on the violations of the PPIC, but denied she was "cooperating" with Singson so the governor could control the port.

In a previous statement, Singson said the port was losing money. He admitted his cousin headed the BCDA but denied he exerted influence on the agency to harass the PPIC.

"I don't know of his (Singson's) hidden agenda," said Mayor Ortega. "He can't tell me what to do. There is such a thing as local autonomy."

Influential person

Earlier, Dulay disclosed that BCDA legal counsel Arnel Casanova had revealed that a "very influential person" had pressured him to reverse a legal study saying there was no legal basis to terminate the BCDA contract with the PPIC.

PPIC president Emmanuel Moran Jr., in the PPIC statement, appealed to the BCDA and the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) to keep the legal conflict within the confines of the BCDA group.

"It is unfair for agencies like the PPA to be dragged into conflicts like this especially since it was their personnel which had to be in the frontline of the takeover operations," Moran said.

The PPA pulled out its personnel from the Poro Point seaport and bulk terminal in San Fernando, La Union after a court issued a 17-day temporary restraining order.

"I urge BCDA and PPMC officials to follow the PPA example and start respecting the authority of the court," Moran said.

BCDA is seeking the nullification of the 25-year PPIC contract for the management of the port but has been stopped by a court order.

Kin of OFW stabbed dead in Israel appeal for justice

LAOAG CITY—THE FAMILY of an overseas Filipino worker, who was stabbed dead in Israel on Aug. 4, has asked the government to press charges against the suspect in the killing, her employer's son.

The family of Elma Danao is also seeking the release of her remaining salary and other benefits amounting to $3,167 from her employer.

Danao's sealed remains arrived at the Laoag International Airport on Sunday night after being flown from Israel on Saturday. She was immediately taken home to Barangay Mandaloque in Dingras town.

Her husband, Pio, said he was counting on the government to bring justice to his wife.

"I could not even raise my own fare to transport the body of my wife from Manila to Ilocos," Pio said, adding that his wife never took a vacation because she wanted to save her money.

Dingras Mayor Robert Castro helped shoulder the expenses for the air transport from Manila to Laoag.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in Laoag said the Philippine Embassy in Israel had reported that the son of Danao's employer had been arrested and jailed.

An embassy report said that Danao tried to break a fight between her employer and her employer's son by escorting the mother out of the house.

But this enraged the son, who is reportedly suffering from a mental illness, and who stabbed Danao several times.

Owwa officer Leonavella Dadiz said there was still no word from the embassy whether it had worked out the release of Danao's benefits from her employer.

"We haven't stopped calling our embassy in Israel just to speed up the claims due to the victim," Dadiz said.

Danao had been serving as a maid in Israel for six years. She was said to have stayed with her present employer for two years. *Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

8 Army soldiers die in highway collision

ALICIA, ISABELA—EIGHT Army soldiers died on Sunday night without firing a shot in the rebel-influenced Isabela.

They were returning from combat operations against communist rebels to their Army camp in Gamu town when their truck was rammed by a Manila-bound bus on the national highway here.

Twenty others were hurt. The soldiers were on a two-truck convoy when one of the vehicles was rammed by the Dagupan bus.

The impact caused the truck to tumble several times, Army officials said, adding that most of the soldiers were either thrown out of the vehicle or were pinned to death.

Col. Hilario Atendido, commander of the Army's 502nd Infantry Brigade based in Jones town, said five soldiers were killed instantly while three others died before reaching the De Vera Hospital in Santiago City.

The fatalities were identified as Sergeants Jose Baquirin, Pedro Mejiano and Leonardo Villegas, Pfc. Frederick Grefalda, Cpl. Joselito Jaluague, a certain Cabigunda and a Serballon, both corporals. The eighth fatality was not immediately identified. *Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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LONG WAIT
An evacuee from communities near the restive Mayon volcano squats as she awaits her turn to receive relief goods at the Bagumbayan Central School in Legazpi City where the goods are being distributed.

Immigration agent charged with kidnapping

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—POLICE HAVE filed a kidnap-for-ransom case against an immigration agent and three of his alleged cohorts who abducted an Indian national in Mendez, Cavite two weeks ago, a police official said.

Supt. Rodel Sermonia, intelligence chief of the Cavite police, identified the suspect as Arnel Linatoc San Diego, an employee of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, and resident of Baclaran, Parañaque City.

Three of the suspect's companions remained unidentified, he said.

The case for kidnapping has been filed at the provincial prosecutor's office in Imus, Cavite.

"As of now, we cannot arrest the suspect because we have to wait for an arrest warrant to be issued by the court. This is not an inquest case," Sermonia told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

A police report said victim Mangat Ram, 32, businessman and resident of Barangay Palocpoc, Mendez town, was snatched from his house by the suspects at around noon last July 26.

The suspects, armed with long firearms, dragged the victim into a waiting Toyota Revo (XEW 361) and took turns beating him up when he put up a fight.

The vehicle then sped toward Tagaytay City.

Ram told police investigators that the suspects immediately asked for P300,000 cash in exchange for his safe release.

The victim negotiated with the suspects and was able to lower the ransom to P35,000.

The Indian national was released somewhere in Imus, Cavite on the same day after he contacted his cousin, a certain Amarjit Singh, who promised to give the ransom demanded by the suspects.

The next day, the victim and his cousin delivered the money to the suspects at a road in Silang, Cavite.

Still terrified by the experience, the victim only reported the incident eight days after.
Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Farmers in land dispute freed on P1-M bail

GUMACA, QUEZON—AFTER posting bail amounting to nearly P1 million, 21 farmers from the Bondoc Peninsula who surrendered to authorities and stayed in prison for more than two months, had regained temporary freedom.

According to Danny Carranza, land tenure improvement program coordinator of the Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Empowerment (PEACE) Foundation, the Agrarian Justice Foundation Inc. (AJFI) paid bail for the release of the farmers.

The AJFI and Peace Foundation are two of several local and international nongovernment organizations that have been helping the farmers in their struggle to have certain portions of coconut plantations in the towns of San Narciso, San Francisco and San Andres included in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), particularly where their houses and tenant farms are located.

Late afternoon on Thursday last week, seven of the farmers walked out of the Gumaca District Jail inside Camp Gen. Arsenio Natividad with raised clenched fists.

The seven, identified as Genaro Saul, Mauricio Limpiado, Bienvenido Mahilum, Sherlito Beltran, Marlon Picao, Arnold Tulid, and Pedito Picao, all residents of Barangay Tala in San Andres town, belong to the first batch of detainees whose released papers were completed Thursday before the end of office hours at the regional trial court here.

"Due to the voluminous papers that need to be typed and signed by the authorities, the other farmers stayed inside the jail for one more night, Carranza said.

After Carranza explained the situation, the farmers prayed rosary together inside the jail.

They embraced each other and whispered comforting words to those who need to stay for one more day.

Saul, the recognized leader of the imprisoned farmers, said he will immediately return to work to make up with his family for the lost time while he was in prison.

"But the struggle will continue. We believe that justice will finally prevail in our favor," he said.

After their release, the seven were treated to dinner in a beach resort in the nearby town of Plaridel.

"We want to make them feel that this day is a special moment for them," Carranza said.

Three weeks ago, the first to be posted with bail and allowed temporary freedom were the two older members of the group. "They were sick. We don't want their health to further deteriorate," Carranza said.

Yesterday afternoon, all the 14 remaining detainees, except one, were temporarily freed after their release papers were completed.

The release of Carlos Curot, a farmer from San Francisco town, was withheld after it was found he still has a pending case of frustrated homicide.

Carranza said they will also post bail for Curot's other criminal case. "We promised him that he will also be freed," he said.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Sorsogon gov scores foes of mining for dirty tricks

SORSOGON CITY—THE ACTIONS of militant antimining activists have become detrimental to foreign mining investors and the poor people who could benefit from their investments, Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee said in a statement furnished the INQUIRER.

Lee cited "how pesticide was poured in a creek near Lafayette's Rapu-Rapu project" and the marine damage was blamed on the company to stop its test run.

He added that the opponents of mining in the area also resorted to spreading a mercury hoax that adversely affected about 5,000 Sorsogon fishermen when the public stopped buying fish coming from Sorsogon.

"If the government fails to restrain these people, foreign investments in mining would definitely be affected," said Lee, who expects Sorsogon and Albay to benefit from mining.

He said antimining critics deprive the poor of work to feed their families and send their children to school.

Lee noted that after the polymetallic project in Rapu-Rapu passed the three-stage test run being conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, it was expected to hire about 1,000 workers—most of them from the host communities—and generate new businesses that would generate more jobs.

The campaign to discredit Lafayette heightened following two oil spills from its mining site in Rapu-Rapu last year.

The government has opened up the country to mining, saying the industry could translate into billions of dollars in investments and could be the answer to the government's growing deficit. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Activist says Baguio disabled shying away from job opportunities

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—A RIGHTS ACtivist for the disabled chastised the local community of the visually-impaired, the hearing-impaired and the wheelchair-bound for refusing to take on job opportunities in the outsourcing industry.

Blind inspirational speaker Tina Llanes-Mabalot, who used to work as a local television and radio talk show host, said the industry has job offers for the blind or the lame to handle medical transcription contracts or call center assignments here.

She blamed the community's self esteem problems. She said the disabled "must muster enough courage to at least train for these jobs or lose the window of opportunity all together."

Mabalot and her brother, Antonio Llanes Jr., are behind the advocacy group Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired (ATRIEVE), which succeeded in convincing business leaders to design jobs for the visually-impaired.

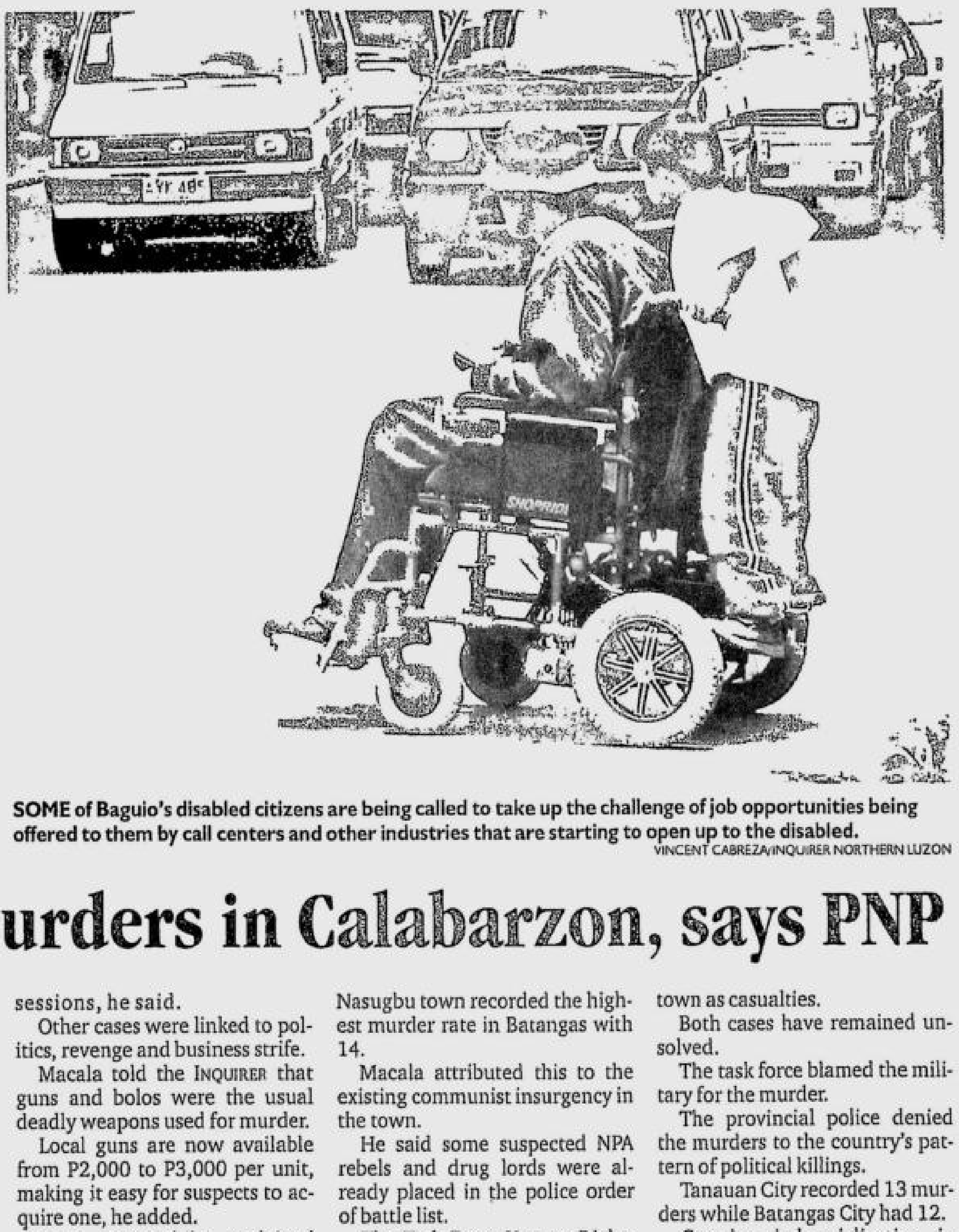
She reported to Mayor Braulio Yaranon that only social worker Alona Bat-eg, 33, took up the challenge and had been hired by a Manila-based medical transcription firm after undertaking extensive training.

Bat-eg became the first disabled woman, as well as the first visually-impaired medical transcriptionist with no medical background, to be part of the outsourcing labor pool.

Dr. Michael Borgonia, of Total Transcription Solutions Inc. (TTSI) in Manila, said she is touted as Asia's first visually disabled medical transcriber.

The World Health Organization said 8.5 million Filipinos suffer from physical disabilities. In Baguio, disabled residents number less than 2,000.

'. . . the disabled must muster enough courage . . .'



SOME of Baguio's disabled citizens are being called to take up the challenge of job opportunities being offered to them by call centers and other industries that are starting to open up to the disabled.
VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Batangas has most murders in Calabarzon, says PNP

BATANGAS CITY—BATANGAS province has the highest murder rate in the Calabarzon region, according to statistics from the provincial police.

In a document entitled "Peace and Order Accomplishment Report" for January-June 2006, figures said Batangas had the highest number of murders with 103, followed by Cavite, 89; Quezon, 72; Laguna, 58; and Rizal, 37 during the six-month period.

With a total of 359 reported cases, the Calabarzon region topped the country's murder figures in the same period, the report said.

Supt. Archival Macala, Batangas police investigation chief, attributed this to the Batangueños' sensitive egos.

"Sometimes, it is the character of the Batangueños that even just a wrong glance would already lead to an altercation," said Supt. Nilo Anzo, Batangas City police chief.

Most of the killings usually resulted from heated arguments, Macala said.

Murders usually occurred on weekends during drinking sessions, he said.

Other cases were linked to politics, revenge and business strife.

Macala told the INQUIRER that guns and bolos were the usual deadly weapons used for murder.

Local guns are now available from P2,000 to P3,000 per unit, making it easy for suspects to acquire one, he added.

Anzo, meanwhile, explained that the police had no way of tracking and monitoring which among the residents owned loose firearms, except through designated checkpoints.

Police figures indicated that Nasugbu town recorded the highest murder rate in Batangas with 14.

Macala attributed this to the existing communist insurgency in the town.

He said some suspected NPA rebels and drug lords were already placed in the police order of battle list.

The Task Force Human Rights Batangas recorded two cases of leftists killed in the same period, with former political detainee Apolonio Mendoza of Nasugbu and suspected NPA commander Crispin Katigbak of nearby Tuy town as casualties.

Both cases have remained unsolved.

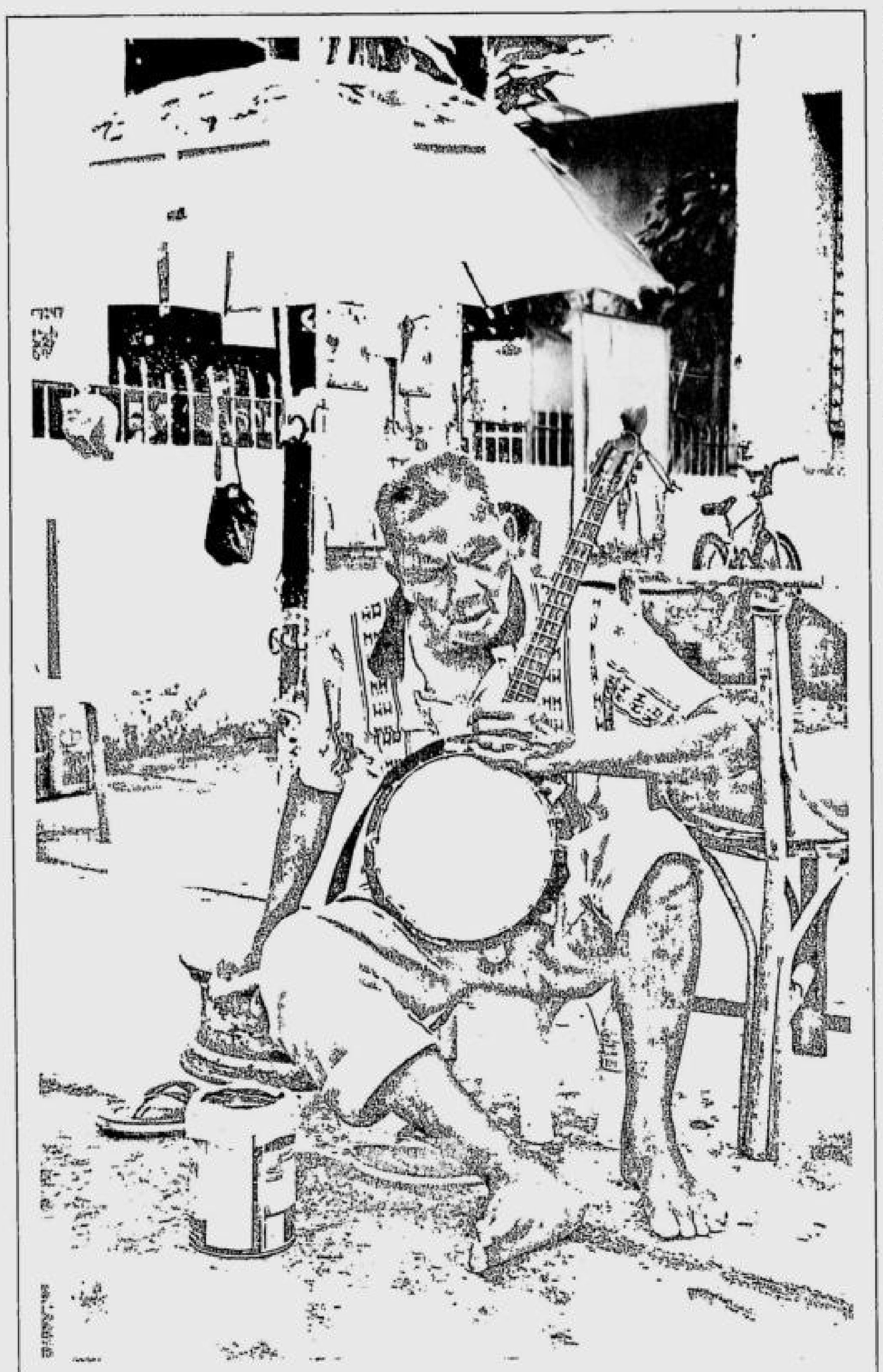
The task force blamed the military for the murder.

The provincial police denied the murders to the country's pattern of political killings.

Tanauan City recorded 13 murders while Batangas City had 12.

Growing industrialization in Batangas City and proliferation of syndicates and gun-for-hire men in Tanauan City are the murder catalysts in the areas, police said. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Cop executed by NPAs; signs of torture seen



LIVELIHOOD
DENNIS JAY SANTOS INQUIRER MINDANAO
A street musician takes a nap under an umbrella near the San Pedro Church in Davao City.

By Bobby Labalan and Fernan Gianan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—A POLICEMAN who was abducted by communist guerrillas in Caramoran town in Catanduanes last week had already been executed for alleged "crimes against the people," a rebel leader confirmed Sunday.

The spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front in Bicol, who identifies himself as Greg Bañares, said in a text message that the body of SPO1 Cesar Liberato was now with his family.

The guerrillas buried the body in a shallow grave in the jungles of Barangay Sabloyon, Caramoran town six days after the execution, according to authorities.

Liberato, a native of Masbate province who had been in law enforcement for 24 years, was on duty in Viga, 52 km from Catanduanes' capital town of Virac, when word reached him supposedly from his wife in Tubli, Caramoran that one of their seven children was sick.

He was riding on a motorcycle driven by a certain Jomel de Quiroz along the national road going to Tubli when they were intercepted at a checkpoint set up by about 60 New People's Army rebels belonging to the Nerissa San Juan Command, who were believed to have just arrived on the island-province from Camarines Sur.

The rebels commandeered a tricycle and took the two toward Km 80 along the Sabloyon-Panganiban national secondary road. Liberato's companion was released unharmed hours later.

Bañares said the release of the policeman's body to his family had been delayed by intensified police and military operations in the area.

Chief Supt. Victor Boco, Bicol police director, condemned the "dastardly act" of the rebels, saying they took advantage of a helpless police officer whose "only mistake was to worry about his sick child."

Boco expressed concern about the future of Liberato's family. "How will they live now?" he said.

Senior Supt. Saadra Mapandi Gani, Catanduanes police chief, said the remains of Liberato, 49, was exhumed at about 2 p.m., Aug. 13.

Cesar was scheduled to be buried Tuesday in Barangay Tubli, Caramoran town.

Gani said police started looking for Liberato's body at 5 a.m. on Sunday after his wife received word from the NPA on the location of his grave.

The recovery team found Cesar still blindfolded and tied, with a fatal stab wound in the breast and numerous injuries in the head and different parts of the body.

A police source said the slain cop might have been tortured by his captors before he was buried alive.

The team that found his body said his legs had been severed and that some fingernails were forcibly pulled off.

De Quiroz was likewise quoted as saying that the NPA used Liberato's 9 mm service pistol to club him in the head. The guerrillas tied him to a tricycle then dragged him for about a kilometer.

The NPA's Nerissa San Juan Command said in a text message that Cesar was punished for his active involvement in the counterinsurgency campaign, serving as guide in anti-rebel operations, and for unspecified abuses.

A police colleague, however, denied the NPA's allegations.

He said Liberato owned several hectares of abaca farms and was engaged in the copra trade while his wife ran a bakery.

Baguio warned of declining forest cover

BAGUIO CITY—FOREST COVER IN this mountain resort city has already been cut to its limit to be able to enjoy an improving air quality and its further reduction to give way to housing projects will make some areas prone to soil erosion, a top environment official said.

Only 20 percent of the original forest cover of 5,000 hectares has remained and the city's air quality may suffer if the existing forest continues to deteriorate, Samuel Peñafiel, director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Cordillera, said.

"We can say that 20 percent is enough and we should no longer reduce this," Peñafiel said during the launching of Green Philippine Highways here. Under the program, the DENR will plant 26,000 seedlings along the 20 major highways, with a total length of 674.5 km, linking Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province to Ilocos and Cagayan.

The city's remaining forested areas are Camp John Hay, Busol watershed, Buyog watershed and South Drive. If these are reduced, Peñafiel said some sections would become vulnerable to soil erosion.

Air quality has improved since 2003 when tests conducted by the World Bank in the city's business district noted heavy pollution in the area, he said. Samples taken in the area, particularly along Session Road and Magsaysay Avenue, registered a reading of 229 unit grams (ug) of total suspended particulates (TSP).

Peñafiel said that although the air sample taken in 2003 registered a high TSP compared to previous years, it still passed the standard of 230 ug. In 2004, the TSP reading dropped to 204 ug and this year, it registered 152 ug.

The regional official attributed the improved air quality to heavy rains that cleansed the city of pollutants.

He urged settlers who planned to build houses in forested areas to replace the trees that would be cut down.

"Baguio City should really plan out what it really wants to do because there are subdivisions rising everywhere and there is no more room anymore. [Officials and residents] should work hard to protect the remaining forest cover," he said. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHILS., INC.

1951

Celebrating 60th Independence Day of India in the Philippines

Message from the Embassy of India in the Philippines

It was fifty-nine years ago on this day, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's First Prime Minister unfurled the National Tricolour from the ramparts of the Red Fort on India's attainment of freedom. Today, the nation pays its homage to all the martyrs of the Freedom Struggle as well as to our Jawans who laid down their lives for the unity and defence of the nation. On this sacred occasion, I greet all members of the Indian community in the Philippines.

Since Independence, we have made commendable progress in building a modern India, self-reliant and full of self-confidence. Today, the whole world is eagerly watching the manner in which India is making rapid economic progress. And this economic growth is taking place within the framework of a liberal democracy. We have succeeded in maintaining and nurturing a multi-cultural, multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic nation. In this endevour, the Indian Diaspora has also made significant contribution. It is the result of our combined hard work that India today has made its mark on the world stage and we feel proud of our standing in the comity of nations.

Bilateral relations between Philippines and India have grown steadily since establishment of diplomatic relations in 1949. Over the years economic and commercial ties have broadened and deepened. The State Visit by President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to the Philippines in February this year highlighted the growing ties between the two countries. India-Philippines relations today are poised for active growth and diversification. New areas of cooperation have opened up particularly in the area of information technology, renewable energy and pharmaceuticals.

India-Philippines relations have a bright future with full of possibilities. We look forward to the Indian community in the Philippines, led by the Indian Chamber of Commerce Phils. Inc.for its contribution in furthering the relations between the two countries.

Jai Hind!

(Tsewang Namgyal)
Charge d'Affaires
14th August, 2006

Message from the Indian Chamber of Commerce Phils., Inc.

Today, we celebrate the Independence Day of India, and to mark this historical event, our Chamber commits itself to a stronger relationship with the Philippines and other Foreign Countries.

Through the years, relations between the Philippines and India shows promising growth in terms of trade figures which have been increasing as more Filipinos are visiting and seeking job opportunities in India, while tourism from India continue to flourish. In business, we are witnessing a marked increase in the number of Indian professionals being appointed in high management positions, such as Chief Executive Officers, Chief Operating Officers, Country Managers and Chief Finance Officers in Philippine corporations. Information technology related projects have been the best link between the Indian and Filipino businessmen. The Indian pharmaceutical business is steadily growing and looks very promising.

We believe that:

1. The biggest concern of both countries is being addressed by H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, the Department of Tourism and the Department of Trade and Industry, all of who have showed inclinations to allow the VOA [visa on arrival] for Indian tourists. With full implementation, this will improve the number of tourist arrivals from the present 5,000 Indian tourists a year to at least 200,000 within the next five years. Direct flights will soon follow once visas are opened. Singapore got 500,000 Indian tourists last year.

2. Information Technology related projects are the best partnership between the two countries: the Philippines excels in Voice related I.T. businesses such as call centers, while India excels in non-voice related activities such as Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO), Engineering Process Outsourcing (EPO), Medical Transcription, e-accounting and more. India and Philippines complement each other - they are partners and not competitors.

3. Our support to the ACR-I card project shows that the ICC is leading in terms of the applicants [based on resident: applicant ratio], being the first foreign Chamber to join hands with the Bureau of Immigration in the processing the applications.

4. We have recently initiated the formation of the International group of different foreign communities where a number of foreign chambers has united to become an umbrella organization for all the foreign communities in the Philippines.

5. As part of our achievement in catering to the needs of many deserving recipients, we have donated computers and school supplies to relocation areas in Laguna and other provinces.

6. The Philippines offers Indian students great opportunity to study in this country. Schools and colleges which offer this opportunity are the Asian Institute of Management (A.I.M) and the Angeles University.

7. Indians led the list of Magsaysay Awardees, among which is the recent 2006 Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leaderhship, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, which has made headlines in the Indian press. The recent four awards won by the Filipino movie "Kubrador" at the recently held Osian Cinefest Festival in New Delhi is a testimony and a great tribute to Indian-Philippine friendship.

8. This year we were honoured by our President Hon. APJ Kalam who visited the Philippines last February 2006, followed by the 25-men business delegation led by former President Ramos who visited in India last January 2006. With the upcoming ASEAN Summit which will be visited by Hon. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, and other government Dignitaries in December 2006 in Cebu, a positive outlook for further trade relationship between the two countries is emerging. The ICC, together with the Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Export Trade and Promotion, will be organizing another Trade Mission in the month of November 2006, which will include delegates from the Information Technology, Healthcare and food franchising sectors.

9. On a lively note, the ICC plans to hold its 2nd Diwali Mela - Indian Festival of Lights on Sunday, October 22, 2006 at the Mall of Asia, Pasay City from 4 pm onwards. It will be a fun-filled event -- there will be fireworks, cultural shows and programs by both the Indian and Filipino community among others. We encourage and welcome Indian and other foreign communities to join and celebrate this festivity with us.

Mabuhay and Jai Hind.

RAM SITALDAS
President, ICC

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Fax. 844-6983
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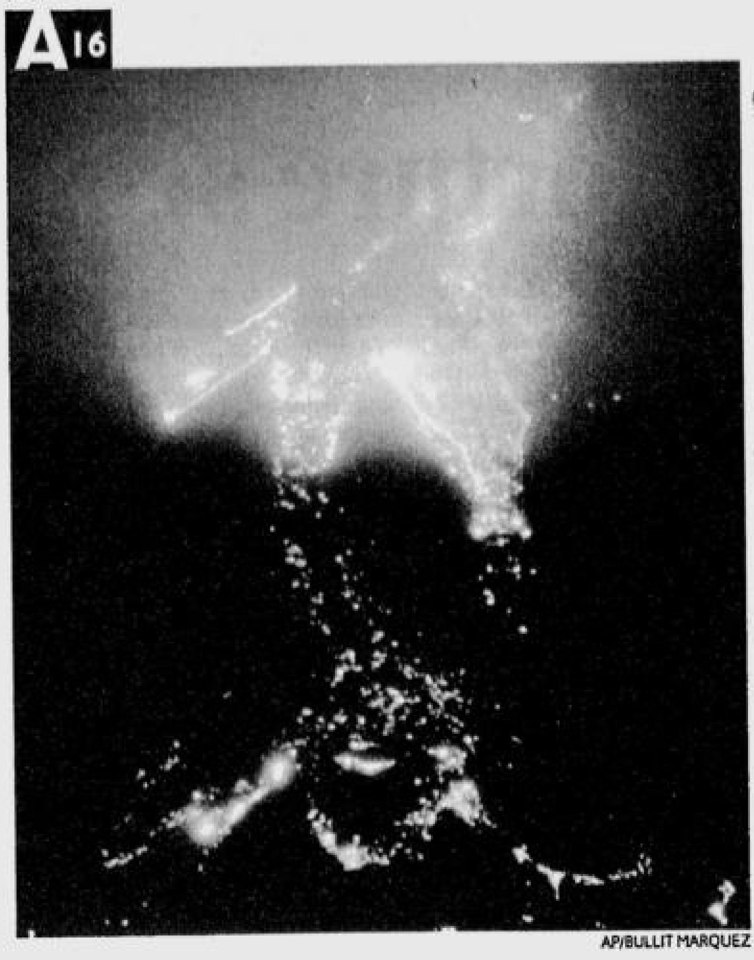

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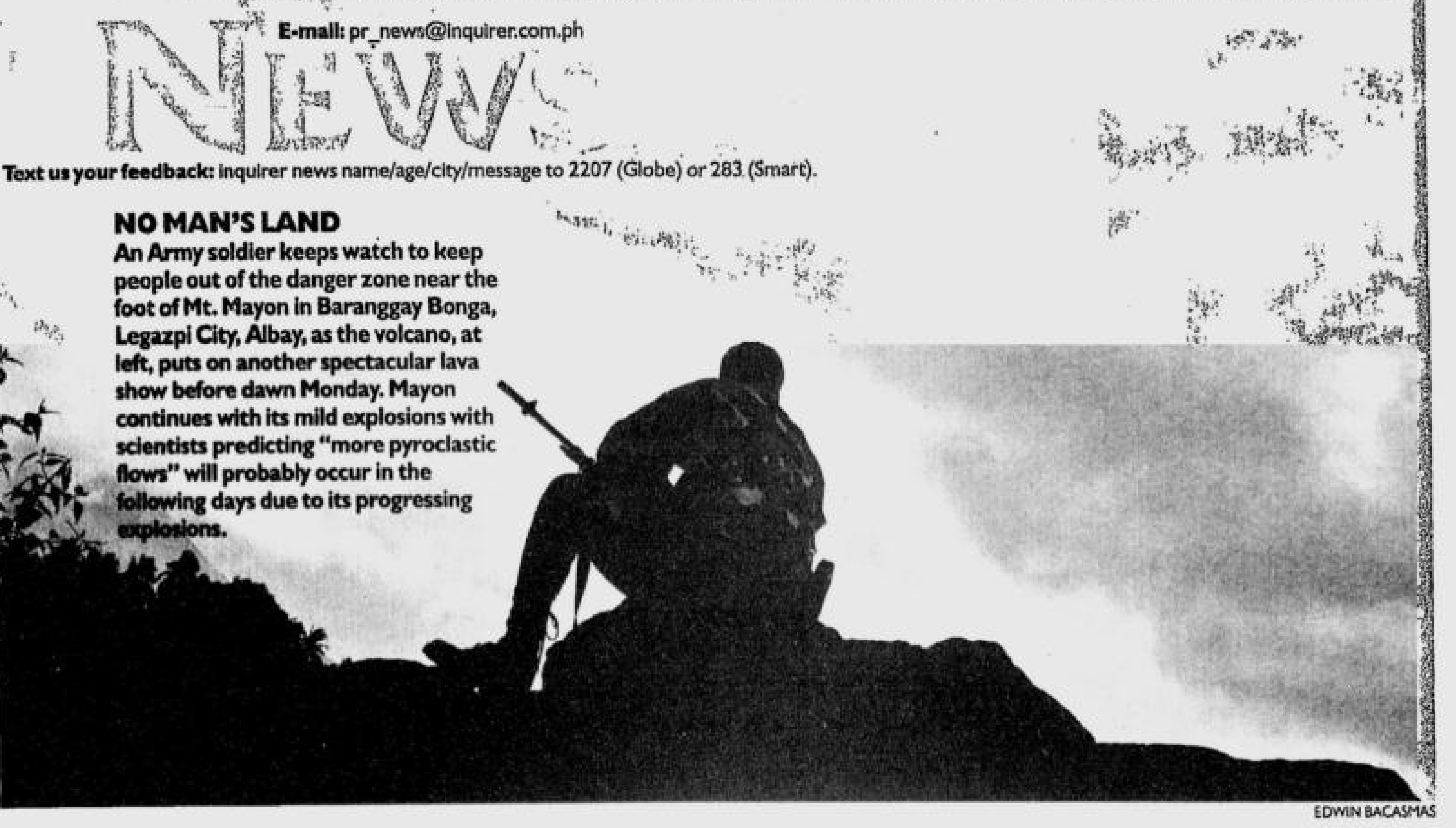

NO MAN'S LAND
An Army soldier keeps watch to keep people out of the danger zone near the foot of Mt. Mayon in Baranggay Bonga, Legazpi City, Albay, as the volcano, at left, puts on another spectacular lava show before dawn Monday. Mayon continues with its mild explosions with scientists predicting "more pyroclastic flows" will probably occur in the following days due to its progressing explosions.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'TELL THAT TO THE RANGERS'

Restriction, not detention, for Marines

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

INSTEAD OF BEING HOUSED IN A DEtention facility in Fort San Felipe, most of the 13 Marine officers implicated in the Feb. 24 failed coup will remain in a "staff house" at Fort Bonifacio for the duration of the investigation.

Except for ex-Marine commandant Maj. Renato Miranda and Col. Ariel Querubin, all the rest have been restricted to a staff house at the Bonifacio Naval Station housing compound since Aug. 7, according to a Navy spokesman.

Miranda and Querubin, meanwhile, will remain in their quarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

"We would like to call it a custodial center. It has a fence and it is under guard 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Navy spokesman Cmdr. Giovanni Bacordo said yesterday.

"We are complying with the guidance of higher headquarters especially (Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant) General (Hermogenes) Esperon... so the Marine officers are now restricted within the confines of the Bonifacio Naval Station," Bacordo went on.

The others linked to the February plot are: Col. Orlando de Leon, former chief of staff; Col. Januario Caringal; Lt. Col. Achilles Segumalian, ex-commander of the 2nd Marine Battalion; Lt. Col. Martin Villasan; Lt. Col. Reynaldo Ocsan; Lt. Col. Armando Banez, former deputy commandant for plans and programs; Lt. Col. Val Hizon; Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon, former deputy commandant for operations; Lt. Col. Romulo Gualdrapa; Maj. Domingo Fernandez; and 1Lt. Belinda Ferrer, former aide de camp of the commandant.

Earlier, Esperon said he expected the Navy to detain the 13 Marine officers, similar to the situation of 19 of the 25 Army Scout Rangers also linked to the coup plot.

The Scout Rangers, led by former commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, have been detained in a maximum security detention facility in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, since last month, while the Marines were not even under any restriction prior to Aug. 7.

In a previous interview, former Army chief Esperon said he was informed by Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga that the 13 Marines would be jailed at Fort San Felipe in Sangley Point, Cavite City.

The former Spanish garrison, where rebel junior officers behind the 2003 Oakwood mutiny are being held, however, needed to be renovated to accommodate additional detainees.

Bacordo said the Navy leadership found that the repairs in Fort San Felipe would take too long. "[But] that is still an option," he said.

Meanwhile, all the accused officers, except for Miranda, formally answered yesterday the charges of attempting to begin a mutiny (Article of War 67), and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (AW 96) during the continuation of the PTI at the BNS Officers' Club.

As in the past hearing, they were not handcuffed and they moved about the makeshift courtroom freely. Querubin was seen with an escort.

The hearing, however, was closed to the media for the first time, supposedly under orders of the Navy.

Querubin, according to his lawyer Rodrigo Artuz, stuck to his contention that he did not plan along with Lim to lead troops into withdrawing support from President Macapagal-Arroyo last Feb. 24.

3 RP hostages freed in Nigeria, says DFA

THREE FILIPINO ENERGY INDUSTRY workers kidnapped in Nigeria have been freed and handed over to the Philippine Embassy in Abuja, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Cornelio Fallaria, 51, Daniel Monteagudo, 49, and Alberto Torres, 50, were turned over to embassy officials "about 30 minutes ago," Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos told reporters after briefing President Macapagal-Arroyo on the developments yesterday.

The three were abducted on Aug. 4 on Bonny Island, where they were working for Overseas Technical Services Nigeria on a multi-billion-dollar liquefied natural gas project.

The DFA said they were freed on Sunday after their employer "negotiated for their release." It gave no other details of the negotiations. No group has claimed responsibility for the abductions.

There was no immediate word on Didone Shephard, a German kidnapped along with his driver in the oil city of Port Harcourt near Bonny island the same week.

The past seven months have seen a wave of kidnappings and attacks on oil facilities and personnel by separatist agitators in the Niger Delta, home to Nigeria's multi-billion-dollar oil and gas wealth.

AFP

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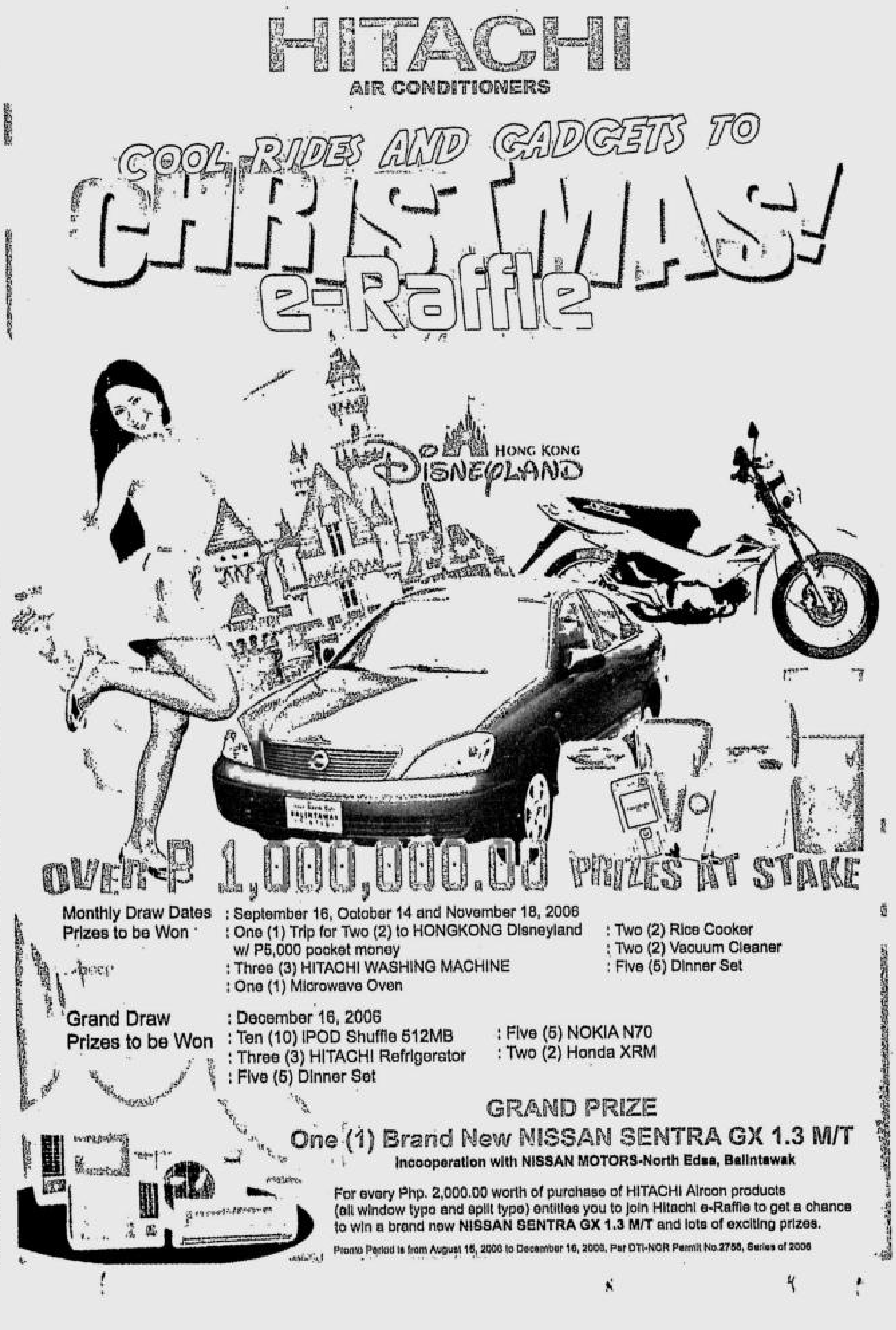
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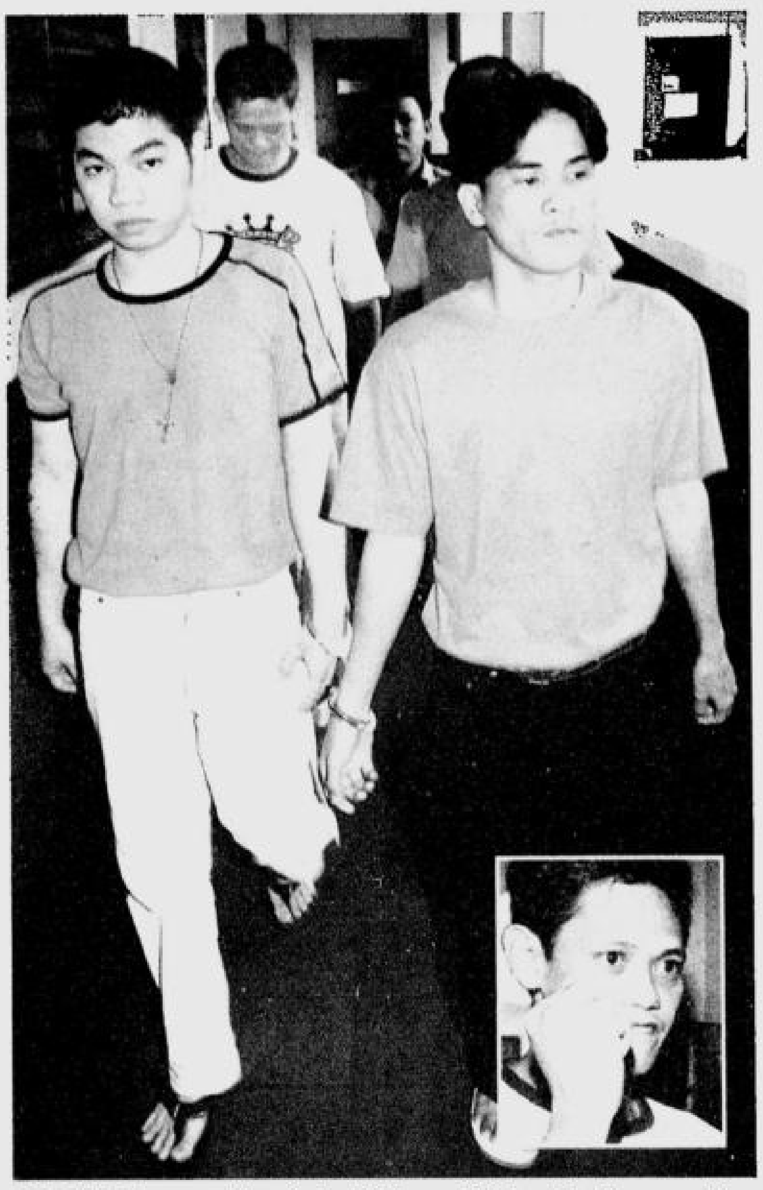
2 in Ramos slay found guilty



ROBERTO Lumagui (inset), Joel Ablay and Michael Cenil, suspects in the killing of Foreign Affairs official Alicia Ramos, show up in court for sentencing yesterday. Lumagui and Albay were convicted of the crime while Cenil was acquitted and ordered released. ERIK ARAZAS

Diplomat's trusted handyman, pal get 20-40 year prison term

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TWO MEN WERE FOUND GUILTY YESTERDAY of killing Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Alicia Ramos inside her home in Makati last year, an incident that shocked the diplomatic community.

Roberto Lumagui—the longtime handyman of Ramos—and his cohort Joel Ablay were sentenced to *reclusion perpetua*, or a prison term of 20 to 40 years, for breaking into Ramos' house in Barangay Palanan and then strangling her to death.

Another suspect, Michael Cenil, was acquitted by the judge for lack of evidence while the case against Jun Maricar, the fourth suspect, was archived as he remains at large.

Apart from the prison term, Judge Maria Cristina Cornejo of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 147 ordered Lumagui and Ablay to pay Ramos' family P100,000 in damages. The two were also ordered to pay another P100,000 should they fail to return items they had stolen from the victim's house such as cameras, watches, cellular phones and jewelry.

Media men tried to get a reaction from Lumagui and Ablay after the decision was handed down, but they refused to give a statement.

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, on the other hand, was happy about the decision.

"We welcome the decision of the court. It shows how impartial Makati judges are. We believe the sentence was enough because it was based on evidence and the culpability of the accused," he said.

In her decision, Cornejo said that although the prosecution had presented only circumstantial evidence and did not have an eyewitness to prove their case, the admission of both Lumagui and Ablay was enough to establish their guilt.

"The fact that no eyewitness was presented to positively identify the accused weakens not the prosecution's cause. Accused Lumagui and Ablay consciously owned up to the commission of the crime," the judge added.

She also pointed out that the evidence presented by the prosecution was not overturned as the accused had waived their right to present evidence in their defense. The judge, meanwhile, threw out Lumagui's argument that he and his cohorts only meant to scare, not kill, the diplomat.

"It matters not how Ramos' death was caused. The indubitable fact is that she died 'by reason of and/or on the occasion of' the robbery. As long as the killing occurs during or because of the heist, even if the killing is accidental, robbery with homicide is committed," said Cornejo.

She also gave weight to the testimonies of witnesses Felicidad and Judy Barba, parents of Lumagui's live-in partner, who said in open court that they overheard Lumagui and Ablay talking about breaking into the Ramos residence days before the incident.

Ramos, 64, was the DFA secretary for Asia and Pacific Affairs at the time of her death. As the Philippine ambassador to Singapore in 1995, she figured prominently in government efforts to save the life of Flor Contemplacion, a housemaid found guilty of killing another Filipino in the city-state.

RAMOS: Justice at last. AP

What Went Before

LETICIA Ramos got up early on April 24, 2005 to sweep the front yard of their house at 5552 Boyle Street, Barangay Palanan,in Makati City which she shared with her sister, Alicia. She had just unlocked the front door when hooded men barged inside, gagged her mouth with tape and then tied her up. The intruders then went to Alicia's room, giving Leticia a chance to escape. She dashed to the St. Claire's Medical Center, a block away from their house. But when the police arrived at the scene, the intruders had already left. Police found Alicia dead inside her room, a white towel wound tightly around her face and neck.

Authorities suspected that robbery was the motive behind the killing of the Foreign Affairs assistant secretary. About P1 million worth of valuables were reported missing, including a Rolex, two mobile phones, three cameras and two automated teller machine cards. Police later arrested Joel Ablay who had told his friends about his involvement in the crime during a drinking spree. Ablay later named Roberto Lumagui, Michael Cenil and Jun Maricar as his cohorts. Cenil was arrested while Lumagui surrendered to authorities. Maricar remains at large.

Lumagui said his group only wanted to scare the diplomat into giving up her money. He also claimed that the real mastermind was Ester Ramos-Bailey, the victim's eldest sister. Government doctors later declared Bailey mentally unfit to stand trial because of a bipolar disorder.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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Suspected operator of 3 shabu labs arrested

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AFTER TWO YEARS IN HIDING, one of the Chinese-Filipino suspects allegedly behind the operations of three shabu laboratories in Bataan and Bulacan finally fell in the hands of authorities.

Paul Tan, 38, was arrested in his house at 50 Makabagdal Street in Caloocan City, last week by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

NBI AIDTF Commander Ruel Lasala said Tan was identified by the owners of a fishpond and a warehouse in Bataan—converted later into shabu laboratories—as the person who had rented the properties.

"Tan is the first Chinese-Filipino suspect behind these 'mega' shabu laboratories who has been arrested," Lasala said in a press conference at the NBI yesterday, where Tan was presented to the media.

He covered his face throughout the news conference and refused to talk to reporters.

A report submitted by Lasala and PDEA Special Enforcement Unit "I" Chief Roel Bolivar said the two shabu mega laboratories in Bataan were put up by the Wang Wei Cheng Drug Trafficking Group.

In December 2004, a joint team of agents from the NBI AIDTF and the PDEA raided the laboratories in Barangay Panilao, Pilar town and in Barangay Lucanin, Mariveles. They seized 600 crates or 30,000 kg of ephedrine, the principal component in the manufacture of shabu.

A third factory, located in Barangay Pantok, Meycauayan, Bulacan, yielded 8,000 kg of ephedrine.

An investigation showed that the factory in Barangay Lucanin began operations in October 2004, while the Panilao laboratory was set to be closed and would be replaced by the laboratory in Meycauayan.

Initial reports indicated that the three laboratories were owned by Tan, a businessman based in Cebu City until the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group busted the operations of his business partner, Calvin Tan.

Lasala said that except for a caretaker who was arrested in the Meycauayan laboratory, the Chinese chemists and the rest of the suspects eluded arrest and abandoned the factories.

Charges of shabu manufacturing were subsequently filed against Tan and his other accomplices. On Dec. 27, 2005, Bataan Regional Trial Court Judge Bartolome Flores issued a warrant of arrest against the suspects.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said they were still looking for the other suspects identified as Thomas Sy, Benzon Chua, Usbono Chua, Andy Ang and their alleged leader, Wang Wei Cheng or Mr. Lim, a Chinese national.

"We will be coordinating with the Chinese police in the arrest of Wang whom we believe has returned to the mainland," Mantaring said.

Journalism is a calling, not a profession

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

DESPITE THOSE SCARY REPORTS about the thwarted plan by al-Qaida to bomb airplanes, travel by air is still the safest—and fastest—way to reach your destination.

You'll just have to bear with the inconvenience of going through the long queue and having your luggage and your person searched.

Nothing in this world is easy and safe at the same time these days. It's either difficult but safe, or easy but dangerous.

* * *

My condolences go to the families of the ABC 5 news team—reporter Hazel Richeta and crewmembers Arnel Guiao and Ismael Cabugayan—who died in an accident in Camarines Norte after covering the Mayon Volcano eruption.

Richeta and her TV crew were on their way back to Manila when their Nissan Frontier's tire burst, causing it to swerve to the opposite lane and run smack into an oncoming bus.

You don't know the trouble journalists go through to keep the public informed till you read or hear about some of them getting killed in the line of duty.

If you think that journalists are cowed by the dangers they encounter to present to their readers, listeners and viewers the latest news and issues, think again.

For every reporter or columnist who dies holding his pen or microphone, there will be three others who will take his or her place.

Journalism is not a profession, it's a calling, much like the priesthood.

* * *

My daughter, Josephine Marie ("Gem" to those close to her), graduated from La Salle recently.

A consistent honors student in her class, she has received offers from big companies to work for them. But she's reluctant to work to do so.

The reason? She's still waiting for a call from a TV network where she applied as a reporter.

The reporter's pay is half the salary she would be receiving if she accepted the job offers from the big companies.

I told her yesterday morning the kind of hardship and risks she would go through as a TV reporter. I pointed to the fate that befell Richeta and her crew.

Gem looked me in the eye and said something that made me proud of my little girl: "Dad, life itself is full of risks."

* * *

The New People's Army (NPA) made a tactical blunder when it attacked government troops who were involved in the evacuation and rescue of Mayon refugees.

It showed indiscipline and noncoordination in the ranks of the guerrillas.

The poor people, whom the NPAs claim to champion, were the ones adversely affected by the attacks on government soldiers in Bicol.

Ambushing soldiers who were on mercy missions was the fastest way for the NPA to lose grassroots support.

* * *

But government troops should not have let their guard down even if they were on mercy mission.

They should have known that guerrillas don't fight conventional warfare, where combatants play by the rules.

There's a saying in the military: It's forgivable to be defeated in combat, but unforgivable to be caught by surprise.

* * *

Former Binibining Pilipinas beauty queen Sabrina Artadi thought that separating from her Arab husband in 1993 meant their children could carry her name instead of her husband's Muslim name.

She was wrong. Her ex-husband, Fouzi Ali Bondagjy, a Saudi national, has filed a contempt case against her children's schools, Brent School and Ayala Verdana, for recognizing his children's Christian names.

Why do we allow this guy to ride roughshod over us?

METROBRIEFS

Fire hits warehouse

A BIG fire ate up P10 million worth of gift items and woven baskets in Taguig City shortly before midnight Sunday. No one was reported hurt or killed in the incident. In his report to city fire marshal Senior Insp. Virgilio dela Paz, arson investigator SFO1 Douglas Modomo said the blaze started at Lara's Gifts and Decors Inc., one of the stalls of JY and Son's warehouse on Veterans Center in Barangay Western Bicutan at around 11:50 p.m. Although investigators have yet to determine what caused the fire, Dela Paz said it could be electricity-related.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Clueless about slay

TWO MEN armed with .45-caliber handguns shot dead a 53-year-old canteen owner in Marikina City yesterday noon. PO3 Edwin Arce told the INQUIRER that Danilo Manalo, 53, was inside his canteen on Exequiel Street in Barangay Sto. Niño when two men approached him and shot him several times. The killers then got on a passenger jeep after the killing. Police remain clueless about what triggered the killing although some witnesses said the canteen owner had figured in a squabble with a neighbor and a truck driver a few days ago.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

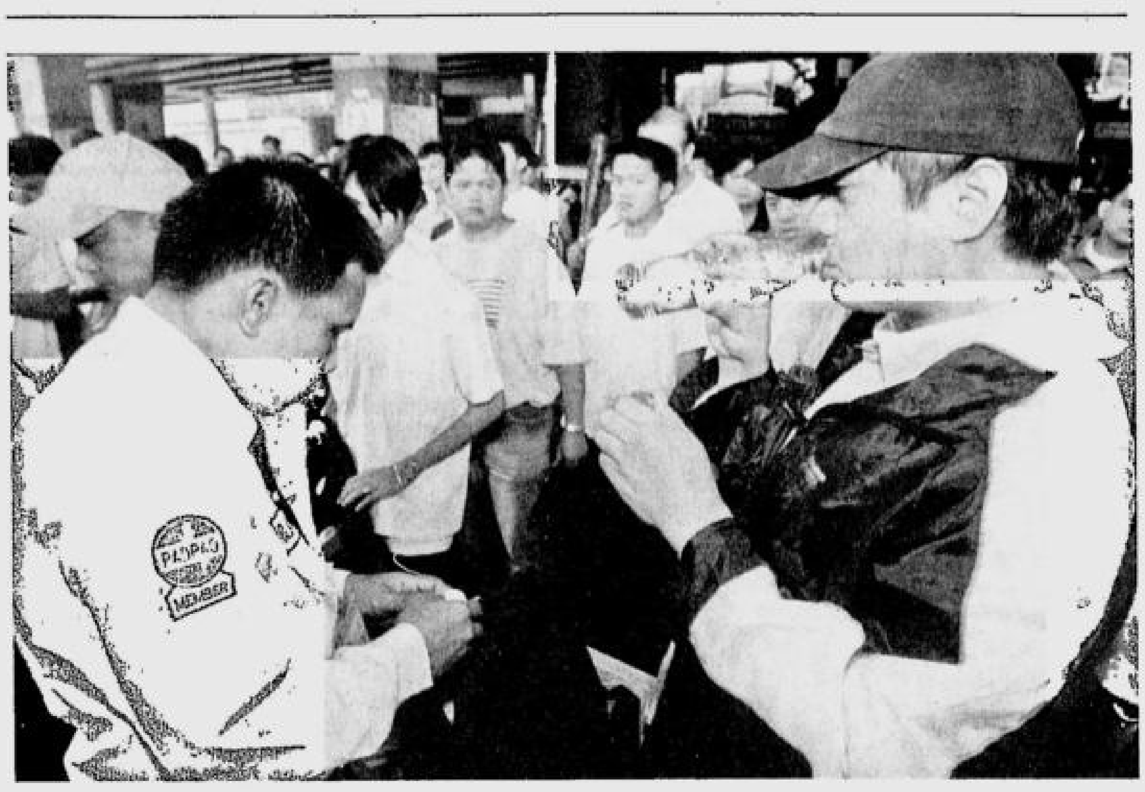
Dengue alert raised

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) raised the alert on dengue hemorrhagic fever after a teenager reportedly died due to dengue in Marikina City yesterday. The alert also followed the result of the Weekly Disease Surveillance Report of the Department of Health (DOH) showing that dengue fever remains second in the list of common diseases during the rainy season.

Alcuin Papa

APB frat deadline

TODAY is the deadline for the early bird registration for the National Convention of the Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity on Oct. 20 to 22 at the Great Eastern Hotel on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Early registration entitles participants to a special rate of P2,500, Judge Raul B. Villanueva, lord chancellor of the APB, said. For details, call the National Convention Secretariat, c/o the office of Rep. Christian Señeres at the House of Representatives, tel. nos. 9315001 (local 7325) and 931-6442. E-mails can also be sent to Anna Peleo at annapeleo@yahoo.com.



A MAN finishes his bottle of water, one of several items prohibited on trains of the Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit Line 1 following a foiled terror plot in the United Kingdom. Security had been tightened in rail stations as well as bus terminals (left) to prevent a similar attack in the country.

RAFFY LERMA, RYAN LIM

New security policy at MRT-3 gets cheers, jeers from commuters

By DJ Yap

PUBLIC REACTION WAS MIXED but generally favorable to the new security policy at the Metro Rail Transit-3 forbidding liquids, gel and similar items containing liquid on its trains.

At the North Edsa station in Quezon City, most of those interviewed said they approved of the restriction, saying it was better to be safe than sorry in light of the foiled terrorist plot in the United Kingdom.

The ban, imposed on Saturday, covers any form of liquid such as bottled water or beverages in cans. Also prohibited are lotions, toothpaste, hair gel and other products of a similar consistency like perfume or cologne.

Others, however thought that the inclusion of bottled water and even toothpaste in the list of banned items was too much.

"Maybe if it's a canister they're checking, it would be okay because you can't see what's inside. But in the case of bottled water, anyone can see it's really just water," said Lani Ontong, 24, who works for a bank.

She added that although it was good the MRT had taken steps to prevent bombing incidents at the railways, the safety measures should not cause too much inconvenience to commuters.

"Just this morning, the lines were so long because it took the guard some time to check each item," she said.

For 66-year-old businessman Greg Arcangel, however, the safety of the passengers was worth several minutes of waiting.

A security guard at the station said bottled water and other liquids may be allowed on board the trains provided the passenger agrees to take a sip of the liquid to prove that it is safe, or show an official receipt for the items.

Ramil Mosquero, 20, agreed that the inspection was justified, since "we never know when something might happen."

But he said asking for a receipt for the beverages was going a bit too far. "I don't think there's any need to do that. It's enough that they check the items," he said.

NBI nabs suspected cyber sex den owner

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUreau of Investigation (NBI) last week arrested a British and his alleged accomplices, who were reportedly operating cyber sex dens in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

NBI director Nestor Mantaring, however, refused to disclose the identities of the suspects because Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003) prohibits the identification of the name and personal circumstances of the trafficked person or of the accused "to recognize the privacy of both victim and accused and ensure a fair and impartial proceeding."

An investigation conducted by the NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division showed that the suspects, who allegedly operated and maintained cyber sex dens in Pampanga, employed minors to work as helpers and later forced them to pose as sex models for a fee of P25 per minute.

DID YOU KNOW

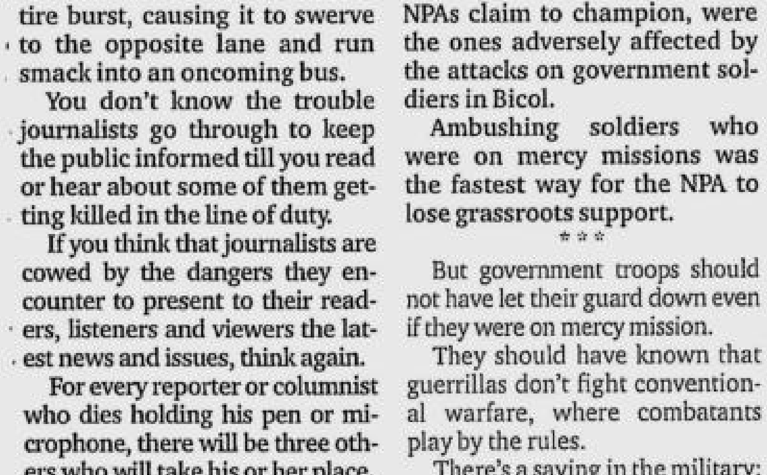
PANDACAN—the district in the City of Manila which is also home to fuel depots—was previously known as "Pandanan" because of the abundance of *pandan* plants in the area.

Problems with language between Filipinos who lived in the area and the Spaniards, however, resulted in a new name for the district. Thus, Pandanan became Pandacan.

Among the district's more famous residents were Apolinario Mabini, Father Jacinto Zamora (who would later be put to death by the Spaniards along with Fathers Mariano Gomez and Jose Burgos), Francisco Baltazar and Lope K. Santos.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Reporter wounded in Valenzuela ambush



TABLOID reporter Roger Panizal talks to Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Northern Police District director, who visited him in the hospital yesterday.

RAFFY LERMA

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A REPORTER FOR A TABLOID was wounded after a lone suspect shot him at around 5:30 a.m. yesterday in Valenzuela City..

Roger Panizal, 52, a reporter for Tiktik, was taken to the hospital for treatment. He, however, identified a certain George de Jesus as the person behind the attempt on his life.

Panizal's case was the fourth attack on members of the press in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area in the past four months. In May, Saksi reporter Albert Orsolino was killed in an ambush in Caloocan City.

On July 28, RPN-9 camera man Ralph Ruñez was robbed and shot dead in front of his house, also in Caloocan City. Three days later, Orsolino's cousin, Prudencio Melendres, a photographer for the tabloid Tanod, was also gunned down in Malabon City.

Valenzuela police chief Billy Beltran said Panizal was shot by a lone suspect on Sta. Juliana Street in Malinta while he was on board a tricycle.

The victim, who moonlights as a tricycle driver, told the police that a man flagged him down and asked to be brought to St. Jude Street.

"But before reaching their destination, the passenger reportedly ordered him to stop. A man then appeared and shot Panizal several times," Beltran said.

The victim's son said the incident could be related to his father's position as an officer of an organization of tricycle drivers.

New NCRPO chief vows 'safer' Metro for residents

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE RAINS POURED, BUT THEY hardly flinched as they stood in line to welcome their new chief.

A hundred policemen braved the downpour yesterday at the turnover rites of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) command marking the assumption to the post of its new chief, Director Reynaldo Varilla, who replaced outgoing Deputy Director General Vidal Querol.

In his speech yesterday, Varilla called on all the NCRPO personnel to "walk with him in his journey" in turning Metro Manila into a peaceful place to live in.

"Individually, we can only do so much. But collectively and in active partnership with the community, we can accomplish this," he said.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy's Class '74, Varilla was the head of the Philippine National Police's Directorate for Intelligence before he moved to his new post.

Querol retired from the police service on Sunday, the same day he turned 56, the mandatory retirement age for policemen.

Varilla said he would also continue Querol's pet project, "Nightwatch," which, according to police, contributed to the significant decline of crime incidents since it was launched late last year, especially regarding crimes affecting the call center industry.

Bombers slaughter 57 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—INSURGENTS SLAUGHTERED at least 57 people in a bomb and missile attack on a busy Baghdad neighborhood, officials said Monday, while Iraq's embattled government faced the political fallout of the blitz.

AN IRAQI man, with bloodstains on his robe, grieves for his kin who remain under a collapsed building after multiple attacks in Baghdad Aug. 14. REUTERS

As rescuers dragged more bloodied corpses from rubble left in the Al-Qubyasi market by Sunday night's blast, three more car bombs killed three people in downtown Baghdad and a missile crashed into the fortified "Green Zone."

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki accused Sunni extremists of seeking to ignite civil war by attacking the largely Shiite district of Zafaraniyah, where a combination of suicide car bombs and missiles demolished two buildings.

"We strongly condemn the series of terrorist attacks which were carried out by takfiris (hardline Sunni) terrorists on Sunday, which killed dozens of people," the Shiite premier said, in a statement released by his office.

"The terrorists planned this ugly crime to kill as many innocent victims as possible and this is evidence of their hatred for Iraq and their attempt to incite division and sectarian fighting among Iraqi people," he warned.

An interior ministry official said insurgents lobbed missiles into Zafaraniyah—demolishing a four-story apartment block—then targeted rescuers with suicide bombers in a car and on a motorcycle.

He put the toll at 57 dead and more than 150 injured, but said this was expected to rise further. "There's children, women. Whole families were killed," he told AFP from the interior ministry's security control room.

The attack marked the worst single loss of life since July 1, when a truck bomb killed 66, and hard-pressed medics reported dozens of seriously wounded residents arriving in hospital wards from the southeast of the capital.

Meanwhile, police and witnesses said that three more bombs had gone off in downtown Baghdad Monday, killing three more civilians. Police at the scene of one of the blasts told AFP that the bomb had not fully detonated.

Four Australian soldiers were also wounded Monday in a rocket attack on the fortified "Green Zone," the seat of Maliki's government, home to the US and British embassies and an important coalition military base.

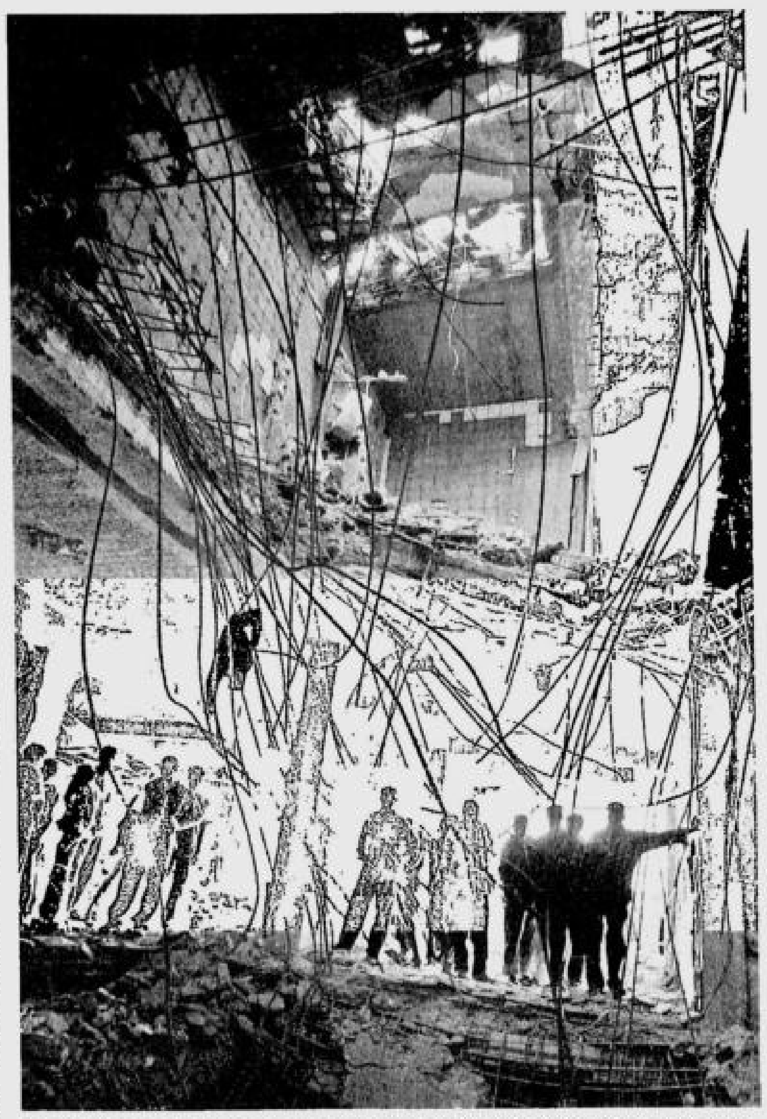
Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, the head of the Australian Defense Force, said three male soldiers had already been discharged from hospital while a female soldier remained in hospital in stable condition, he added.

The latest carnage took the shine off announcements by Maliki and his US allies about the arrest of many suspected insurgents and will erode the government's authority as it tries to win back control of its capital.

Shiite supporters of the radical anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr lost no time in pushing their demand to be allowed to form armed self-defense units.

Saheb al-Ameri from Sadr's Najaf office said government should "reactivate the role of the popular committees besides purging the security apparatus of dubious elements who use their official status to implement criminal acts."

He accused US forces—"the occupier"—of ordering Maliki not to allow Shiites to defend themselves. *AFP*



IRAQIS inspect damage on a building at the site of multiple attacks in Baghdad Aug. 14. REUTERS

WorldBriefs

Mahathir denies trying to topple gov't

KUALA LUMPUR—FORMER MALAYSIAN premier Mahathir Mohamad on Monday denied allegations he was trying to topple the government which he has bitterly criticized in recent months. Influential cabinet minister Nazri Abdul Aziz over the weekend accused Mahathir of working to unseat Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who was handed the top job when the veteran leader stood down in 2003. "I have no way of toppling the prime minister of this country... No, no way," Mahathir, 81, was quoted as saying in the New Straits Times. "I am not forming a new party and I am not doing anything. I am not even allowed to talk to UMNO," he said, referring to the United Malays National Organisation which has ruled Malaysia since independence in 1957. *AFP*

Scandal in Brazil over piano competition

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—THE NEW VILLA-LOBOS International Piano Competition was meant to remind the world that Brazil isn't just a pop music force and to encourage young pianists to add works by Brazil's most renowned classical composer to their repertory. Instead, the weeklong event begins here Monday with its luster tarnished by accusations that the process of selecting the contestants has been manipulated. The charges come from the former director of the competition, an Israeli pianist named Ilan Rechtman, who was dismissed in April. He said that John Neschling, the conductor and artistic director of the Sao Paulo State Symphony Orchestra, the organizers of the competition, improperly interfered with the selection process to such an extent that 11 of the 20 pianists who will be playing here were not on an original list of chosen candidates. *NYT*

US court upholds Lipitor basic patent

NEW YORK—PFIZER INC HAS SAID THAT A panel of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has upheld the exclusivity of the main patent covering atorvastatin, the active ingredient in Lipitor, maintaining patent protection for Lipitor in the US until March 2010. The Appeals Court also ruled that a second patent (US 5,273,995) at issue in the lawsuit covering the calcium salt of atorvastatin is invalid on technical grounds. That patent would have expired in June 2011. The Appeals Court ruled in a lawsuit brought by Pfizer against the generic manufacturer Ranbaxy Ltd. The court held that Ranbaxy's generic atorvastatin product would infringe the company's basic patent (US 4,681,893) broadly covering atorvastatin.

Castro cautions his recovery could take time

HAWKER shows the front page of Cuban newspaper Juventud Rebelde (Rebel Youth) with a recent picture of Castro and a headline which reads "I Feel Very Happy" Aug. 13 in Havana. Castro said Sunday—the day of his 80th birthday—that he had improved "considerably." AFP

HAVANA—AILING CUBAN leader Fidel Castro said his recovery could take time and cautioned Cubans to be ready for bad news, while acting president Raul Castro stepped into his brother's public role by greeting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez as he arrived for a visit.

Nearly two weeks after Fidel Castro temporarily ceded power to his younger brother—the first change of control in the communist Caribbean nation in 47 years—Cubans finally got a look at both men on Sunday.

Fidel Castro appeared in photographs to reassure Cubans he was still alive on his 80th birthday. Raul Castro met Chavez, a top Cuba ally, with a salute and a hug at the Havana airport.

The communist youth newspaper Juventud Rebelde published what it said were current pictures of Fidel Castro, along with a cautionary message attributed to the leader saying he faced a long recovery.

"I suggest you be optimistic and, at the same time, always prepared to receive bad news," he said in his message.

"To say the stability has improved considerably is not to tell a lie. To say that the period of recovery will be short and there is now no risk would be absolutely incorrect," Castro said in the message posted on the youth daily's Web site (http://www.juventudrebelde.cu).

The four pictures were the first of Castro since he ceded power on July 31 due to surgery to stop intestinal bleeding.

They showed Castro from the waist up, wearing a track suit in a bedroom. In one, he was holding a birthday supplement published by the Communist Party newspaper Granma on Saturday, apparently to show the pictures were current.

Venezuela's presidential press office said Chavez met with Castro but did not describe the meeting. In Bolivia, President Evo Morales sang "Happy Birthday, comandante" to Castro on Sunday and vowed to bake him a birthday cake made with coca leaves, the raw material used to make cocaine.

News that their leader had reappeared and was on the mend came as a relief to many Cubans worried his death could create upheaval in one of the world's last communist outposts. Others were more skeptical about the picture and thought his condition was worse than the nation was being told.

Details of Castro's health are considered a state secret.

It is not known just what kind of operation he underwent, nor if he will be able to resume his government duties.

Castro is the last of the key Cold War-era figures on the world stage and has survived 10 US presidents despite efforts to oust him. He also survived the collapse of Cuba's benefactor, the Soviet Union. *REUTERS*

Mexico leftist vows civil disobedience over polls

MEXICO CITY—AS THE COURTS completed a partial recount of votes in last month's presidential election, the beleaguered leftist candidate vowed Sunday to keep up a campaign of civil disobedience against the government for years, if necessary, to protest what he sees as a fraudulent election.

Speaking at a rally in the capital's central square, the candidate, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, former Mexico City mayor who champions the cause of the poor, declared: "The object of our movement is to save democracy and make the Constitution mean something."

"We are prepared to resist for whatever time is necessary, even for years, if the circumstances merit it," he added. "Here and now begins a new chapter in the life of Mexico. The simulated republic is finished."

Last month, the official tally by the Federal Electoral Commission showed that Felipe Calderon, the conservative candidate, from President Vicente Fox's National Action Party, had won a narrow victory—243,000 votes out of 41 million cast.

But Lopez Obrador insisted there had been fraud and demanded a full recount. In response, a special electoral tribunal responsible for ratifying the results and resolving challenges ordered a partial recount of about 12,000 polling places. The seven-member court must rule on the challenges and designate a new president by Sept. 6. The partial recount was to be finished by midnight Sunday.

Lopez Obrador's aides contended Sunday that evidence had surfaced during the partial recount that ballots were missing in some polling places while extra ballots had turned up in others. They cited the irregularities as evidence that ballot boxes had been stuffed in some precincts and that marked ballots had been disposed of in others.

Lopez Obrador said he would ask the electoral tribunal on Monday to annul the vote in 7,000 polling places where his representatives maintain that irregularities took place. His aides contend that throwing out the results from those polling places would give Lopez Obrador the victory. *NYT*

Pope: Church not just a collection of bans

By Philip Pullella

VATICAN CITY—POPE BENEDICT said in an interview aired on Sunday that Catholicism should not be seen as a "collection of prohibitions" because of bans on gay marriage, abortion and contraception but as a Church with positive values.

In the long and rare interview with German television and Vatican Radio, he also offered some personal insights, saying he was not lonely in his job but did not feel strong enough to plan many long overseas trips like his predecessor John Paul.

He also said he was happy that the world was now noticing other aspects of his personality to correct the stern image many people had of him while, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he was the Church's chief doctrinal enforcer before his 2005 election.

The interview, which will be posted on the Vatican Web site www.vatican.va, was recorded last week at his summer retreat south of Rome and broadcast ahead of a trip to his native Germany next month.

Benedict said while he would not be traveling as much as John Paul, he yearned to visit the Holy Land, but only "in a time of peace."

"Christianity, Catholicism, isn't a collection of prohibitions," the 79-year-old Pope said. "It's a positive option ... We've heard so much about what is not allowed that now it's time to say: We have a positive idea to offer."

Benedict, responding to a question about the Church's positions against abortion, contraception and homosexual marriage, said: "So, firstly, it's important to stress what we want. Secondly, we can also see why we don't want something. I believe we need to see and reflect on the fact that it's not a Catholic invention that man and woman are made for each other, so that humanity can go on living: all cultures know this," he said.

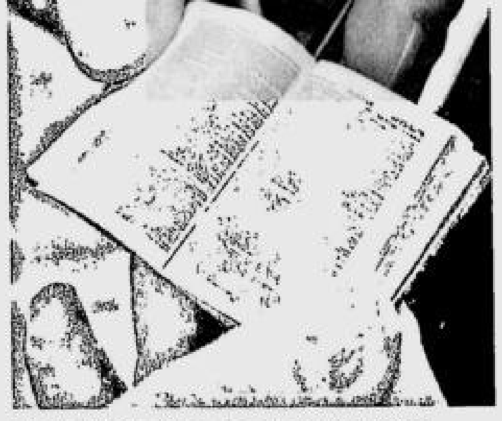
Asked if the Church should not come out of some of its defensive positions, the Pope acknowledged it had to learn better how to stress the positive.

"We need to do this, above all, in dialogue with cultures and religions," he said, adding that some Africans and Asians were "horrified by the coldness of our (Western) rationality."

Greater role for women

Benedict also said the Church was reflecting much about the role of women but repeated that they could not become priests because Christ chose only men as his apostles.

He suggested, however, that canon (Church) law, which currently restricts high-level decision-making roles to ordained males, might someday be changed to give women more power in the Church short of the priesthood. *REUTERS*



THE BRYCE Bible, the smallest printed Bible, at a museum in Hagerstown, Md. AP

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Quake charity may have financed plot

LONDON—BRITISH AND PAKISTANI INVESTIGATORS ARE trying to determine whether the group of Britons suspected of plotting to blow up as many as 10 commercial airliners may have received money raised for earthquake relief by a Pakistani charity that is a front for an Islamic militant group.

The charity, Jamaat ud Dawa, which is active in the mosques of Britain's largest cities, played a significant role in relief efforts after last October's devastating earthquake in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir. It is one of the most militant of the groups battling the part of Kashmir controlled by India. In May, it was labeled a terrorist organization by the US government.

British and Pakistani investigators are looking into the possibility that the group passed the earthquake donations raised in British mosques to the plotters, according to two people familiar with the investigation.

According to a former Pakistani official close to the intelligence officials there, Jamaat ud Dawa provided the money that was to be used to buy plane tickets for the suspects to conduct a practice run as well as tickets for the attacks themselves. The money is believed to have come directly from the group's network in the United Kingdom and was not sent from Pakistan, the former Pakistani official said.

"The Pakistanis have been asked by the British to examine the links between Jamaat ud Dawa and the suspects in the airplane attack," the former Pakistani official said.

According to a former British security official familiar with the investigation, some of the money raised in British mosques also went to the group's militant activities in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

On Wednesday, Pakistani officials detained Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, the head of the organization. After the earthquake, which killed some 73,000 people, Jamaat ud Dawa raised funds in British Pakistani neighborhoods in London, Birmingham and Manchester. Leaders of the group also urged British people of Pakistani origin to go to the region to help in the relief efforts, and hundreds did.

On Sunday, a senior US law enforcement official said that the British police and intelligence officials had identified several suspected accomplices to the plotters who are believed to have provided support to the plot outside Britain. The new suspects were identified by checking the arrested men's computers, the official said. *NYT*

UK, US lower threat levels, ease restrictions

LONDON—BRITAIN DOWNGRADED ITS SEcurity threat level on Monday as it appeared that police had apprehended all of the main figures in an alleged terror plot, a decision that was likely to ease traveller frustrations at the country's airports.

The government lowered the threat level to "severe" from "critical"—the highest of five levels—with Home Secretary John Reid saying: "The police believe that the main suspects in the alleged plot were arrested last week."

British police staged pre-dawn raids on the homes of 24 terror suspects on Thursday over alleged plans to smuggle liquid explosives disguised as drinks or medicine onto US-bound planes and detonate them in mid-flight.

The "critical" alert level triggered exceptional security measures, with the authorities banning all carry-on baggage, with few exceptions.

The Department for Transport said on its website that following the security level downgrade passengers would now be allowed one piece of hand baggage, although the ban on carrying non-essential liquids would remain.

In Washington, the US Department of Homeland Security announced late Sunday it was downgrading the threat level for inbound flights from Britain to "code orange" from "code red," its highest security risk alert after Britain lowered its security threat level.

"The security measures already taken have allowed us to address an imminent threat of attack for flights between the United Kingdom and the United States," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said in a statement.

The change to "code orange" on flights from Britain was effective immediately, the statement said.

The US threat level remains at "code orange," or "high," for all US domestic and international flights, it said.

A ban on liquids and gels in carry-on baggage also would remain in effect, it said.

But the US Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) allows Sunday airline travelers to take in their carry-on luggage limited amounts of baby milk, personal prescription medicine and personal insulin.

Four ounces of non-prescription medicine will be allowed as well.

However, all passengers will now be required to remove their shoes for X-ray inspection alongside their carry-on bags at airport checkpoints.

TSA continued to allow passengers to take on board luggage and personal electronics devices such as music players, which British authorities have been screening from planes, suspecting they could be used as bomb detonation devices.

Reid, however, said the government would not let its guard down, and urged the public "to remain vigilant."

"I want to stress ... that the change in the threat level does not mean that the threat has gone away," he said.

"There is still a very serious threat of an attack. The threat level is at severe indicating the high likelihood of an attempted terrorist attack at some stage, and I urge the public to remain vigilant."

Reid on Sunday told BBC television that Britain had thwarted "at least four major plots" since the July 7, 2005 bombings in London that left 56 people dead, and indicated that up to a dozen were under investigation.

Earlier this year, Peter Clarke, head of the Metropolitan Police's antiterrorist branch, said officers had stopped three and probably four attacks since the July 2005 bombings—while police were investigating 70 terrorist-related cases at home and around the world. *AFP*

Air strike kills 43 orphaned girls, S. Lanka rebels say

COLOMBO—TAMIL TIGER GUERRILLAS SAID Monday that 43 schoolgirls at an orphanage and 15 civilians huddled in a church have been killed in air and artillery attacks by Sri Lanka's military.

Air force jets hit a "Senchcholai," an orphanage run by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in the northeastern region of Mullaitivu, the Tigers said in a statement.

The government denied the attack and said the air force had only targeted an LTTE training facility in Mullaitivu.

"The schoolchildren were participating in a first aid seminar organized by (the) Senchcholai," the Tigers statement said. "The number of children killed is feared to be higher."

Sixty children were wounded in the air strikes, the statement said, adding that they were being taken to hospitals in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu, both in rebel-held territory in the north.

"It is a lie to say that schoolchildren were targeted," government spokesperson Chandrapala Liyanage said. "The air force had bombed a LTTE training center. We don't know if they had moved child soldiers there."

Military officials confirmed that the air force was keeping up attacks in support of ground troops resisting a rebel advance on the Jaffna peninsula, further to the north of the island.

The Swedish-led Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission said they received a complaint from the LTTE and monitors were on the way to the area to investigate.

"We have got a complaint from the LTTE that an orphanage has been bombed and that 50 children have been killed," spokesperson Thorfinnur Omarsson said. "Our monitors are on the way. We can't comment any further."

The United Nations agency for children, Unicef, said it was also told of the incident and had rushed officers from its base in the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi to investigate.

Ambulances were rushing the wounded, many of whom were bleeding heavily, to hospitals, the pro-rebel Tamilnet reported.

The Tigers run orphanages to care for hundreds of war orphans in the rebel-held northeast.

It was not immediately clear if the bombed orphanage was the same one opened in January by the LTTE's supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran.

According to the Tigers at the time, the Senchcholai comprised 11 residential blocks, an area for infants, an administration block, a skill development center, a cultural hall, a health center, a library, study halls and a children's park.

The Senchcholais or Tiger orphanages were first established in 1991 in Sandilippay in Jaffna. *AFP*

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE
Pakistani girls hold national flags as they sing national songs during the Independence Day ceremony celebrations in Islamabad, Aug. 14. Pakistan is celebrating its 59th Independence Day after being granted independence from Britain in 1947, as the colonial regime ceded freedom to the subcontinent. AFP

Women seen dominating millionaires' club

LONDON—WOMEN MILLIONAIRES will outnumber their male counterparts within 15 years as the total number of mega-rich quadruples, according to research on Monday.

Bigger divorce settlements, rising house prices and shrewd investments will fuel the women's rise, said the Center for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), a London-based consultancy.

Their longer life expectancy will also help them eclipse men in the wealth stakes.

"We estimate that by 2020, 53 percent of millionaires are likely to be female," said CEBR economist Jaspreet Sehmi.

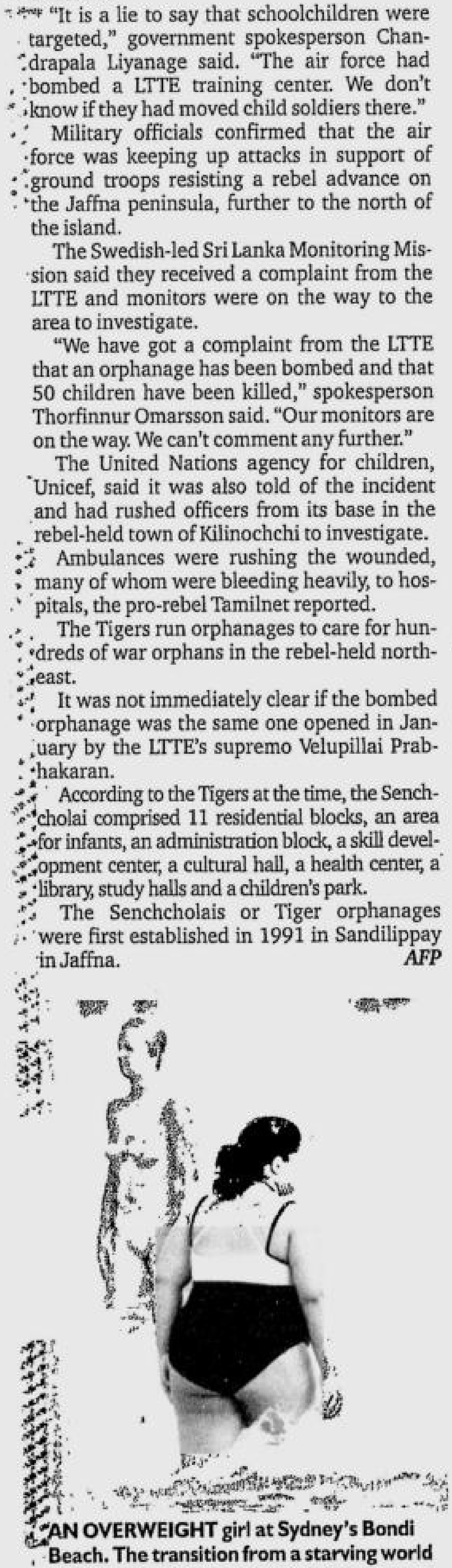
Women make up about 46 percent of Britain's estimated 376,000 millionaires. The total will reach 1.7 million in 2020, more than four times the current level.

"Behind our predictions for a rapid increase in millionaires over the next 15 years is robust growth in housing wealth," Sehmi said. "In addition we estimate that wealth from shares and other investments will continue to grow."

Women will benefit more from rising stock markets because they tend to invest more than men in shares, the CEBR said.

The average age for all UK millionaires is 56. *Reuters*

World now has more fat people than hungry



AN OVERWEIGHT girl **at Sydney's Bondi Beach. The transition from a starving world to an obese one has happened with dramatic speed, US Prof. Barry Popkin said.** AFP

SYDNEY—THE WORLD NOW HAS more overweight people than hungry ones and governments should design economic strategies to influence national diets, a conference of international experts heard Monday.

The transition from a starving world to an obese one had happened with dramatic speed, US professor Barry Popkin told the annual conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

"The reality is that globally far more obesity than undernutrition exists," Popkin said, adding that while hunger was slowly declining, obesity was rapidly spreading.

There are more than a billion overweight people in the world and 800 million who are undernourished, he said at the Gold Coast convention center near Brisbane. The world population is estimated at about 6.5 billion.

"Obesity is the norm globally and undernutrition, while still important in a few countries and in targeted populations in many others, is no longer the dominant disease."

The "burden of obesity," with its related illnesses, was also shifting from the rich to the poor, not only in urban but in rural areas around the world, he said.

China typified the changes, with a major shift in diet from cereals to animal products and vegetable oils accompanied by a decline in physical work, more motorized transport and more television viewing.

But all countries had failed to address the obesity "boom," the University of North Carolina professor said.

Food prices could be used to manipulate people's diets and tilt them toward healthier options, he suggested.

"For instance, if we charge money for every calorie of soft drink and fruit drink that was consumed, people would consume less of it.

"If we subsidize fruit and vegetable production, people would consume more of it and we would have a healthier diet."

University of Minnesota professor Benjamin Senauer used a comparative study of lifestyles in the United States and Japan to show how the costs of food and transport play a role in the problem.

Japan has one of the world's lowest rates of obesity and the US one of the highest.

"The average Japanese household spends almost a quarter of its income on food compared to under 14 percent in the US," Senauer said.

While a direct tax on food in the US to reduce obesity would not be politically acceptable, agricultural subsidies which resulted in cheap food could be reduced.

But other factors such as exercise also played an important role and again economic influences were involved, he said.

"Japanese cities are based on efficient public transport—and walking. The average American commutes to work, drives to the supermarket and does as little walking as possible."

The average Japanese man walks 6.4 kilometers a day while almost a quarter of US adults may only walk between 1,000 and 3,000 steps a day, Senauer said.

While the relative cost of calories and fat had decreased over time, technology had eliminated much of the need for physical activity during work.

For most Americans, getting enough physical activity now required a conscious commitment to exercise and often cost money, such as the price of a round of golf or membership of a gym." *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Federer claims 40th career title** /A23

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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■ **Dumandan tops C'fornia golf** /A24

Cards stay at No. 4; Bombers up

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MAPUA KEPT ITS FIRM GRIP OF THE LAST Final Four berth as the Cardinals walloped St. Benilde's cellar-dwelling Blazers, 60-42, yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Cardinals improved to 6-5 as they maintained their three-game advantage over San Sebastian (3-7), Perpetual (3-7) and Jose Rizal (3-8), which created a minor stir by upending Philippine Christian, 65-63, in the day's first senior game.

Mark Pradas starred for the Bombers by scoring the game-winning triple with 2.9 seconds left.

Despite the loss, the Dolphins stayed in third place at 8-3 although they lost ground in their bid to finish in the top two and avail of the twice-to-beat incentive in the Final Four.

Defending champion Letran and San Beda lead the field with identical 9-1 records.

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	9	1
Letran	9	1
PCU	8	3
Mapua	6	5
S. Sebastian	3	7
Perpetual	3	7
Jose Rizal	3	8
St. Benilde	1	10

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
12 noon—Letran vs San Sebastian (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Perpetual (Srs/Jrs)

Raymund Tiongco scored 15 points to lead the Cardinals on top of four rebounds and two assists, while Sean Co contributed nine points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals. Joferson Gonzales had eight points and 11 rebounds, while Neil Pascual chipped in four points and 11 rebounds for Mapua.

The Cardinals, who snapped a two-game skid, need just a win in their last three games against Letran, San Beda and PCU to clinch at least a tie for the fourth and last semifinal berth.

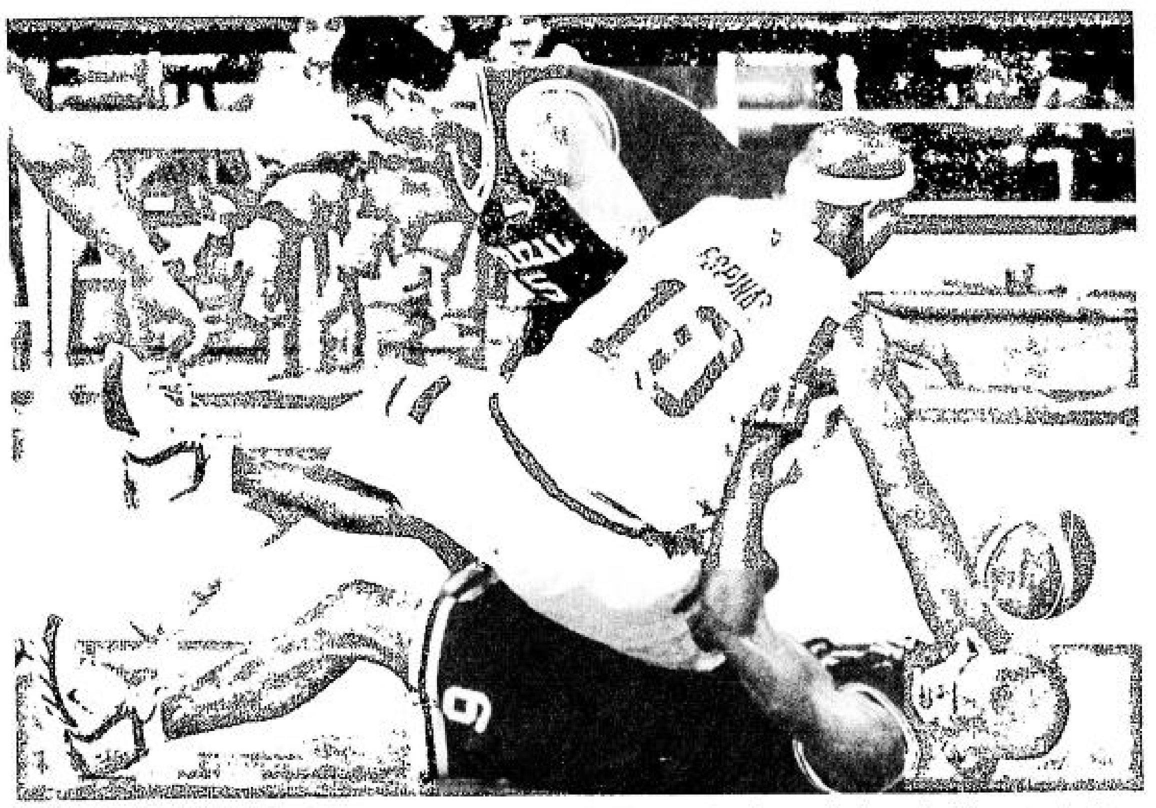
The Dolphins, who saw their four-game winning run cut short, blew a 52-42 advantage in the last quarter as Pradas joined hands with Mark Cagoco, who delivered 11 of his 18 points in the last period.

"We're still alive. Although our fate is not in our hands, we are hopeful this hard-praying team will pull through," said JRU coach Ariel Vanguardia, who took over, just before the start of the season, a team that last reached the Final Four in 2001.

Floyd Dedicatoria also shone for JRU with 16 points, 10 rebounds, five steals, three blocks and three assists.

Floricel Guevarra scattered a game-high 20 points to lead the Baby Dolphins to a 68-60 win over the Light Bombers in the lone juniors game.

The Baby Dolphins improved to 7-2, while pulling down the Lighties to 5-4.



PCU'S Gabby Espinas crashes into Jose Rizal U's Marvin Hayes as he chases the loose ball in yesterday's hotly-contested game at the Rizal Coliseum. RYAN LIM

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

PCU 68—Guevarra 20, Lansang 10, Degano 10, Navaja 7, Pascual 5, Importante 5, Anacta 4, Asucion 4, Delaten 3, Ibrao 0, Miranda 0, Faurillo 0, Bandal 0.

JRU 60—Lituania 19, Kabigting 14, Sta. Cruz 8, Gabriel 7, Santos 4, Pineda 3, Bejado 3, Cirpriano 2, Ungco 0, Del Rosario 0, Santos 0, Escarta 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 34-25, 52-42, 68-60

Second Game (Srs)

JRU 65—Cagoco 18, Dedicatoria 16, Pradas 8, Nocom 5, Wilson 5, Sena 4, Hayes 2, fenequito 2, Pria 2, Se 2, caspe 1, Bucao 0, Echane 0.

PCU 63—Espinas 14, Navarro 14, Amparado 9, Garrido 6, Santos 6, Hermosa 4, David 3, Salem 2, McCoy 2, Belga 2, Castro 1, Javelona 0, Graham 0, Vidal 0.

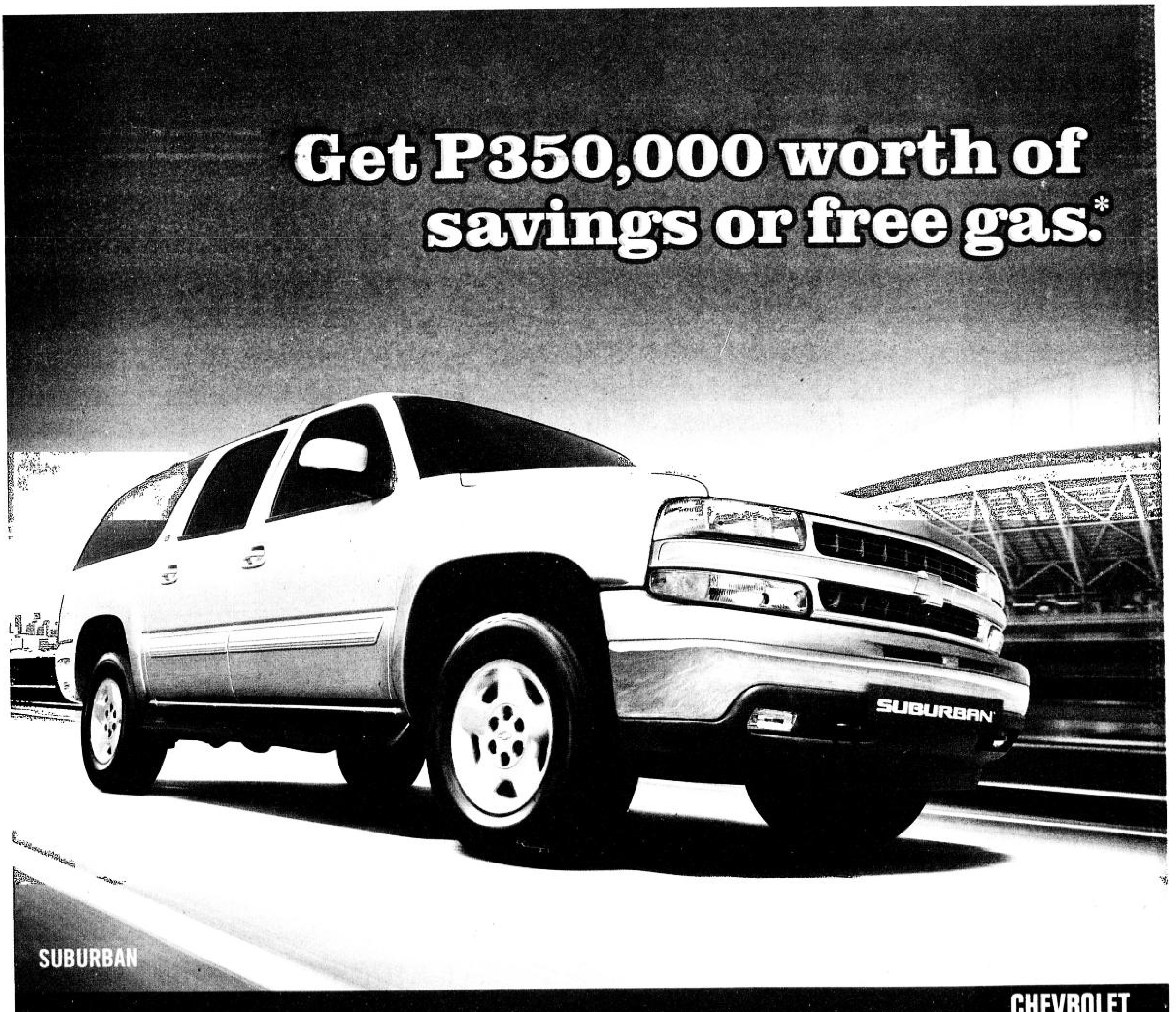
Quarters: 8-14, 21-27, 40-47, 65-63

Third Game (Srs)

MAPUA 60—Tiongco 15, Co 9, Gonzales 8, Dela Pena 7, Del Rosario 6, Mazo 6; N Pascual 4, Sumalinog 3, Migraso 2, J Pascual 0, Palomique 0, Guillermo 0, Acosta 0.

ST. BENILDE 42—Urra Jr 11, Sevilla 9, Johnston 6, Robles 5, Layug 4, Aldover 4, Manlapaz 2, Trillo 1, Libunao 0, Umlas 0, David 0, Manding 0, Urra III 0, Devaras 0.

Quarters: 18-9, 27-22, 43-33, 60-42



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RP cagers eye sweep against tall Lebanese

INSPIRED BY ITS 19-POINT BLOWOUT WIN the first time around, the San Miguel Beer-sponsored Team Philippines attempts to sweep its two-game exhibition series against the Lebanon national team tomorrow.

Sunday's embarrassing defeat was definitely a downer for the Lebanese, Asia's second-best cagers who are here to cap their preparation for the World Basketball Championship slated in Saitama, Japan, later this month.

And it should hurt them all the more knowing that they were beaten by a team that was hastily assembled for the goodwill games.

"There is nothing that makes a coach prouder than to learn that his team flourished in his absence," said head coach Chot Reyes in a text message to assistant coach Djalma Arnedo. "It means the players and coaches understand what true teamwork is about. Congrats!"

Reyes is still in Taipei calling the shots for the San Miguel Beermen, who are seeing action in the Asian Invitational Club Championship.

Filipinos executed well

But while he was proud of what Team Philippines has accomplished, coach Norman Black—who is pinch-hitting for Reyes—put everything in perspective, saying the visiting Lebanese are still trying to feel their way around.

"Our players did what they had to do," said Black. "They executed well and held their own off the boards against the tall Lebanese."

But he was also quick to admit that the visitors might not have the legs since they came in just the day before from their war-torn country.

Lebanon beat Canada, without Steve Nash, last week, just a day after falling to Slovenia, a former Russian republic.

"But with another two-day rest, I'm sure the Lebanese will recover their energy and give us a good challenge on Wednesday," Black said.

Game time is set at 7 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ren-Ren Ritualo, who scorched the visitors with 23 points, including 7-for-16 from behind the arc, is again expected to spark the RP Team's offense.

The Filipinos had a tentative start but found their rhythm in the second quarter with Ritualo sparking them ahead for good, 54-43, at the half.

LEBANON'S Joseph Vogel asserts his might underneath in scoring an unmolested tip-in off the RP Team's Raffy Reavis Sunday. RYAN LIM

Still a race halfway thru UAAP season

ATENEO AND UNIVERSITY of the East may be running 1-2 but the UAAP men's basketball tournament front-runners hardly feel secure.

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	6	0
Univ. of East	5	2
Far Eastern	3	4
National U	3	4
Adamson	3	4
Univ. of Phils.	2	5
Santo Tomas	2	5

GAMES THURSDAY
(PhilSports Arena)
9 a.m.—FEU vs UP (Jrs)
10:30 a.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Jrs)
12 noon—NU vs UE (Jrs)
2 p.m.—FEU vs UP (Srs)
4 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Srs)

"It's a little different from the past years when there were always a few teams at the bottom," said Ateneo coach Norman Black, whose Eagles needed a lot of scrambling to pull off a six-game sweep of the first round.

"That does not seem to be the case this year. I don't know if it's because of the new coaches in the league, but it seems all the teams have their own personalities and they try to win a certain way."

UE coach Dindo Pumaren said each team still has a fighting chance to get into the Final Four.

"It's still a level playing field," said Pumaren. "FEU struggled early in the season, then several upsets also happened. And even if Ateneo swept the first round, most of their games were close. No one's really sure which team will advance to the semis."

While the title-favorite Warriors had already faced tough competition, no one flashed uncertain form than the defending champion Far Eastern Tamaraws.

They surprisingly dropped four straight games before recovering with a decent 3-4 record.

"We're now in a close fight with other teams," said FEU mentor Bert Flores. "*Nakahinga na kami* (We were able to breathe). We're picking up. The other teams also gave us a chance to catch up in the standings."

Adamson coach Leo Austria noted how a single slip could immediately affect a team's Final Four hopes.

"Every game, there are changes in the standings and there are a lot of things that can still happen," said Austria. "Before we were thinking that we might compete against UST and UP for the last (semifinal) slot. But now all the teams are fighting for slots."

By Jasmine W. Payo

WOMEN'S CAGING

Lady Tams keep top spot

FAR EASTERN DREW 14 POINTS EACH from Kathy Nidoy, Diana Jose and Aurora Adriano in dumping National, 85-42, Saturday to remain on top in the UAAP women's basketball tournament.

Playing on their homecourt in Morayta, the Lady Tamaraws also drew 12 points from Aurora Adriana and 10 from Chovi Borja in securing their fifth win in six outings.

Jovelyn Mejia scored 21 points and had seven rebounds for the Lady Bulldogs, who remained in the cellar with a 1-7 slate.

Adamson, last year's losing finalist, stayed in the hunt with a 67-56 victory over University of the East as Merenciana Arayi shone with a 35-point, 10-rebound performance.

Adamson clinched its fifth win in seven games. UE fell to 1-6.

In the other match, Jea Payoyo and Fatima Tolentino each finished with 13 points as University of the Philippines (3-4) downed University of Santo Tomas (4-3), 55-48.

Games on Wednesday at the Ateneo Blue Eagle gym pit Adamson against Ateneo at 12 noon, UST against NU at 1:30 p.m. and UP against UE at 3 p.m.

Rousing World Series start for Bacolod girls

THE BACOLOD CITY-BASED EDUCATION and Training Center School began its bid for an international crown with a shutout victory yesterday in the 2006 Junior League Softball World Series at Field B of Everest Park in Kirkland, Washington.

The ETCS softbelles, the Asia-Pacific champions, posted a 4-0 pounding of America West, represented by the Murray-Hill squad from Beaverton, Oregon, to gain a share of the early lead in Pool B.

The Bacoleñas are in top spot of their group together with the Naples Girls team from Naples, Florida, which clobbered Asofem from Maunabo, Puerto Rico, 6-0, in the other Pool B encounter.

America South, represented by Lake Wales, Florida, last year, is the defending champion in the 13-14 division.

The Bacolod squad, coached by Vilda Benjamin, Dina Barlita and Lagrimas Ciokon, hopes to duplicate the feat of Bacolod's Paglaum Village National High School which snared the country's first and only World Series title in 2003.

The Filipinos eye their second straight win when they take on Central America, represented by Elyria of Ohio, in Field A at 8 a.m. today.

ETCS, which placed second in the recent Palarong Pambansa, finished third in its previous two World Series campaigns.

The Bacoleña softbelles earned the right to play in the world championship after ruling the 2006 Little League Philippine series in Nueva Ecija in April.

In Pool A games, America East demolished Europe-Middle East-Africa, 11-1, and America Southwest trampled host District IX Kirkland National, 10-5.

The top two teams from each pool will advance to the semifinals with the semifinal survivors later clashing for the title.

Christian Irl Tan, Inquirer Visayas

Manila belles get going in Michigan

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN—TEAM MANILA plays two games today to start its campaign in the Big League (16-18) Softball World Series at the Lee Field of Vanderberg Park here. Head coach Filomeno "Boy" Codiñera is scheduled to arrive here two hours before the Golden Girls plunge into action against Puerto Rico at 10:30 a.m. They return to the same field, one of the playing venues in the six-hectare complex to battle Michigan at 3:30 p.m. Aiza dela Torre will start against Puerto Rico, the same team she beat in the 2003 Junior League World Series in Kirkland, Washington, while playing for Bacolod City. The Puerto Ricans, however, are raring to end their three-year jinx against the RP side. The last time the two squads met, the RP Golden Girls prevailed, 3-0.

Pagulayan battles teen sensation in Nat'l Pool opener

TOP SEED ALEX "THE LION" PAGULAYAN tests the mettle of teenage sensation Jec Limen in the 2006 BSCP National Pool Championship which starts at 3 p.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Pagulayan, the 2004 World Pool titlist, is expected to hurdle Limen, a prized find from Davao who emerged second in the qualifying round, and spark his bid for the P1 million champion's purse.

Legendary Jose "Amang" Parica and veteran Jorge "Totoy" Dacer tangle in another featured match in the event organized by Raja Sports and the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines.

Dennis Orcollo is seeded No. 2 in the 64-man tournament which will follow the race-to-nine, winner's-break format.

The Canada-based Pagulayan is playing under the stable of Puyat Sports of Aristeo "Putch" Puyat while Orcollo is from Bugsy's promotion of businesswoman Verna Mariano.

"*Isa't-isa ang labanan sa* National Open. *Pag binuwenas ka sa* breaks, *malaking* factor *yun*," said Pagulayan.

Orcollo agreed with Pagulayan, but said that the players' condition would also come into play.

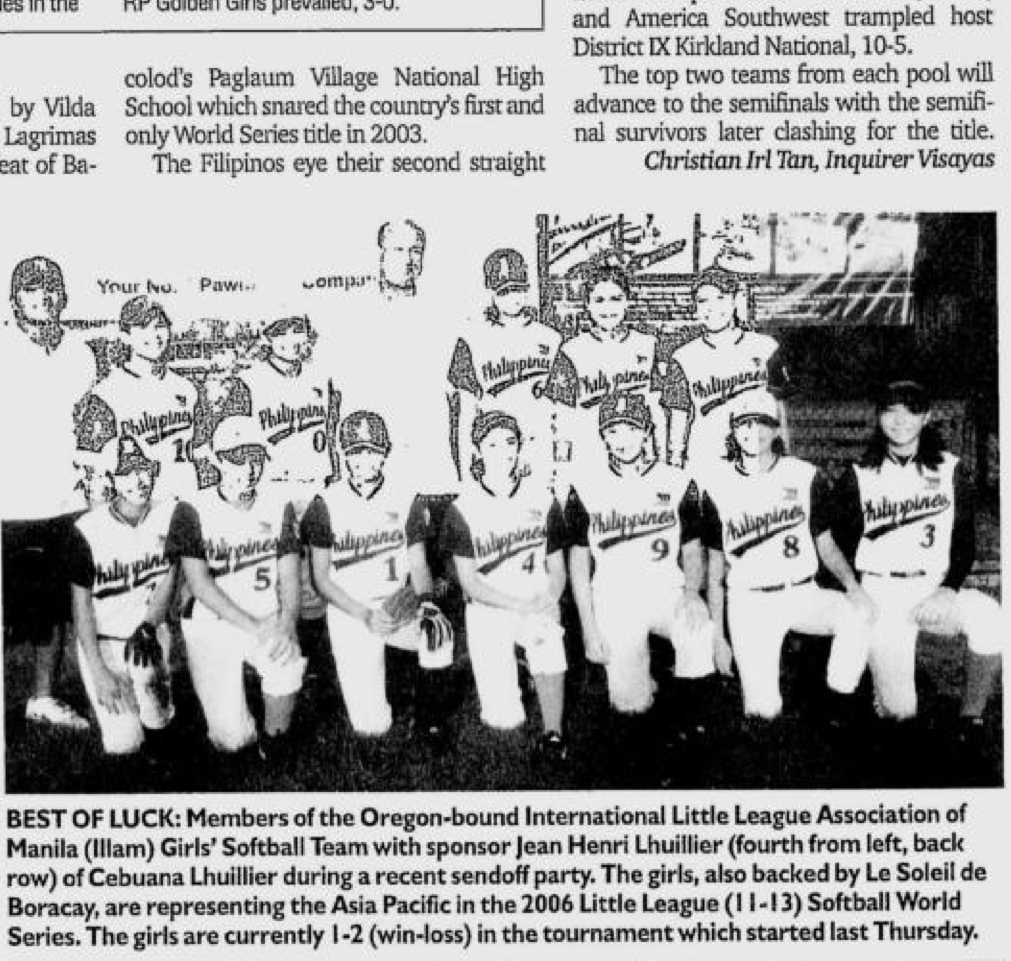
Tthe other seeded players are Parica (No. 3), Ronato Alcano (4), Ramil Gallego (5), Rodolfo Luat (6), Lee Corteza (7), Warren Kiamco (8), Antonio Gabica (9), Mario Tolentino (10), Leonardo Andam (11), Joven Bustamente (12), Roberto Gomez (13), Gandy Valle (14), Jherome Pena (15) and Jeffrey de Luna (16).

BSCP chair Yen Makabenta was scheduled to preside over the drawing of lots last night at the Raja Sports office in Makati.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez and GAB chair Eric Buhain have been invited to grace the opening rites. Atienza and actress Andrea del Rosario will do the ceremonial break.

The event is sponsored by Touch Mobile, Alaxan, PCSO, Star Paper Corp., Brunswick, Aramith Balls, Ivan Simonis and Predator Cues.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor



BEST OF LUCK: Members of the Oregon-bound International Little League Association of Manila (Illam) Girls' Softball Team with sponsor Jean Henri Lhuillier (fourth from left, back row) of Cebuana Lhuillier during a recent sendoff party. The girls, also backed by Le Soleil de Boracay, are representing the Asia Pacific in the 2006 Little League (11-13) Softball World Series. The girls are currently 1-2 (win-loss) in the tournament which started last Thursday.

Southwoods Invt'l tees off

THE FORMAL OPENING OF A SPRUCED-UP Masters course will highlight this year's Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club's Invitational tournament starting today in Carmona, Cavite.

Manila Southwoods, headed by chair Robert L. Sobrepeña, started a few months ago the multimillion peso renovation program for the all-weather course that Jack Nicklaus designed, just in time for the rainy season.

"My fellow members and our guests will have the honor of playing our newly renovated Masters," Sobrepeña said. "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors."

Teams totaling 300 made up of a member and his guest are taking part in the 36-hole event spread over four days. Prizes worth P7.5 million are at stake in the tournament, including those for holes-in-one and raffle.

Information Professionals Inc., Gainers, Manila Railway Transit (MRT), Nestle, Southwoods Ladies Team and Universal Robina Corp. are the tournament's major sponsors.

SPORTSWATCH

P'lifters at PSA Forum

THE COUNTRY'S HOSTING OF THE 2006 Asian Bench Press Championships on Aug. 19 to 21 will be formally launched in today's special session of the weekly PSA Forum at the Bayview Park Hotel. Powerlifting Association of the Philippine president Dominic Cabalza heads guests appearing in the public sports program aired live over Sports Radio 918 and sponsored by Pagcor, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Masco chair Ali Atienza. Others gracing the 10:30 a.m. session are officials of the Manila Lions Club (District 301A7) headed by governors Valeriano Po and Jack Yu. The group recently provided training uniforms to the national athletics training pool.

Sta. Ana 3-cocker today

SIXTY-TWO MATCHES HAVE BEEN ROSTERED for today's 3-cock derby at the Sta. Ana Cockpit on AP Reyes Avenue, Makati City. The first fight sizzles at 6 p.m. Hosted by the Singkamas Pride group, the derby has drawn cockfight circuit veterans like Louie Cua, Boy de Roca, Lito Orillaza, William Co, Rudy Salud, Emil Chua, Ramon Mancenares, Muroy Dolorico, Eric dela Rosa, Efren Canlas, Bobby Doromal, Leo Magpantay, the Super Pacman entry, Toto Lacson and Boy Corcuera. "Aficionados can expect slambang showdown of big-time cockers from start to finish," said pit manager Butchoy Olano. For inquiries, call 898-3474 or 898-3475.

Pascua in-law passes away

CARLOS S. GARCIA, FATHER-IN-LAW OF sportscaster and BANDERA columnist Barry Pascua, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 12, due to a lingering illness. He was 79. His remains lie in state at the Arlington Chapels on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Cremation will be held on Thursday. He is survived by children Rudy, Lydia, Albert, Romeo and Shirley and grandchildren Ana, Randy, Laloevina, Brevie Lou, Ava, Leon, Regina, Illuminada, Sabrina, Lucas and Elizah Dominique.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Overture/Alid Hazm (7), Refreshing (1), Friendly Fire (4), Virgin Island (3)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Passing Through (8), Real Touch (7), Amazing Firenze (4), Hello Junior (3), Please Don't Stop (5)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sovereign Dancer (5), Reign of Fire (7), Silver Music (1), Shifty (8), Star Material (6)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Play It Again (4), D'Minnows (1), Magic Bullet (2), Pasirit (6)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Crafty Treasure (11), Kim Possible (7), Reporter (10), Run Like D'Wind (5), Red Diamond (4), Lydia's Magic/Guardian (3)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Iron Mic (6), Aim and Fire (7), Sugar Ray (3), Do It David (1)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Manhattan (3), Sutter's Royal (7), Luck of the Irish (6), Ilocos Pride (1), Man Power (5)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Chabacana (4), Dashing (6), King Aljhun (3), Sakura Ijhay (9), Sweet Felicity (7), Alitaptap (11)

Balquin takes solo lead in Pichay chess

CANTILAN, SURIGAO SUR—JOHNNEL BALquin beat fellow Cagayan de Oro bet Antonio Chavez Jr. in round six on Monday to grab the solo lead in the 3rd Prospero Pichay Sr. Memorial Open chess tournament at the SSP-SC-SSIT Campus here.

Expertly handling black, the 27-year-old Balquin dealt Chavez, 15, his first loss after 18 moves of a Modern defense and raised his total to 5.5 points in the nine-round Swiss system event staking a total pot of P300,000.

"His (Chavez) miscue was when he overextended his kingside pawns in the hope that he could get an immediate attack," said Balquin. "*Parang ginaya n'ya si Dimaks* (IM Oliver Dimakiling) *na umatake agad* as black *gamit ang kanyang mga* pawns *sa laro nila kahapon* (Sunday) *na nauwi sa tabla.*"

Balquin, who beat NM Mirabeau Maga and split the point with NM Elwin Retanal before upending Chavez, now has 5.5 points with three rounds to go in the event honoring the father of National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Butch" Pichay.

In round seven, Balquin will face whoever wins in the board one tussle between Dimakiling (4.5 pts.) and Fernandez (5).

"*Pinilit ko talagang manalo pero tumabla pa kahit* one pawn down *na siya* (Chavez)," said Dimakiling, the top favorite in the tournament dangling P100,000 to the champion. "He holds promise."

Chavez, a product of Fighting Chess Defenders under the umbrella of Metro Cagayan Chess Club, stirred the richest ever open chess tourney in Mindanao when he beat veteran NM Ernesto Abasin in round three and IM Richard Bitoon in round five.

Other featured round seven matches pit IM Darwin Laylo (4 pts.) against NM Prospero Cruz (4.5), Rhobel Legaspi (4) versus fellow Manila bet IM Ronald Dableo (4) and IM Barlo Nadera (4) against Kim Steven Yap (4).

Also bidding for top 10 spots are 4 pointers Retanal, NM Roland Nolte, Maga, Camiguin Island's Johnny Corrales, Jimmy Dano, NM John Paul Gomez, Carlos Moreno III, Anthony Makinano and Rodrigo Alejandre.

ELENA Dementieva celebrates her win over Jelena Jankovic. REUTERS

Dementieva wears down foe for crown

CARSON, CALIFORNIA—THIRD seed Elena Dementieva wore down Jelena Jankovic, 6-3 4-6 6-3, to win the Los Angeles Open on Sunday.

"I'm working every day for these moments. I hope this momentum keeps going forever," the 25-year-old Russian said after clinching her maiden title on US hardcourts.

The 21-year-old Jankovic, who upset seven-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams in the semi-finals, briefly turned the match around after losing the opening set.

She used her powerful backhand to great effect to help take the second set but she grew tired early in the third and took a medical timeout at 3-0 down for heat sickness.

But Dementieva finally shut Jankovic down when she broke the Serbian in the final game and won the two-and-a-half-hour match with a forehand crosscourt winner, celebrating her second title of the year with a leap into the air.

"She's very unpredictable," Dementieva said, who upset top seed Maria Sharapova in the semis." Reuters

Federer regains Rogers Cup title

FAMILIAR finish for Roger Federer. REUTERS

TORONTO—ROGER FEDERER won his second Rogers Cup in three years when he rallied past Richard Gasquet, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, in Sunday's final.

Top-ranked Federer clinched his 40th career title, and 11th in the Masters Series. The Swiss star also won his 54th straight match and ninth championship in North America since 2004.

Gasquet was bidding to become the first French winner in the tournament's 125-year history. He beat Federer last year in Monte Carlo but has since lost five straight against him, including four this year.

Unseeded Gasquet started well by breaking Federer twice to claim the first set. Federer then started the second set 0-40 on serve but came back to hold and break Gasquet in the next game. The world No. 1 soon led 3-0 and held firm.

Federer broke Gasquet at 2-2 in the deciding set and that seemed to sap the 20-year-old, who was broken again in his next service game.

Federer had no trouble after that. He raised his arms and smiled at the 10,000-strong crowd when he closed out the match in 1 hour, 47 minutes.

Federer won four straight three-set matches to cap his seventh title this year. He won the Rogers Cup when it was last played in Toronto in 2004 but didn't defend the title last year.

Federer improved his match record to 62-4 this year. His only losses have been to Rafael Nadal. *AP*

Kerr wins as Stanford falters

LONDON, CANADA—BOGEYS by Angela Stanford on the last two holes delivered a shocking one-stroke victory to fellow American Cristie Kerr here Sunday at the $1.7 million LPGA Canadian Women's Open.

Kerr fired a final-round seven-under par 65 to finish on 12-under par 276 but Stanford looked on her way to a wire-to-wire victory until back-to-back bogeys ruined a dream bid for the second title of her six-year career.

Kerr, who began the round eight strokes off the lead, won her second title of the season and eighth crown of her career.

"Unbelievable," Kerr said. "I feel like I played great but I still can't believe I won. It was just a magical day."

Stanford, 28, had only three bogeys in the prior three rounds to enter the day with a four-stroke lead in quest of her first victory since 2003. American Pat Hurst was third on 278. AFP

KERR

WANG Zhizhi (right) gets hit in the eye by Anderson Franca Varejao of Brazil in their Stankovic Cup game in Nanjing. AFP

Wang returns but China bows to Brazil

NANJING, CHINA—CHINA'S FORmer basketball bad boy Wang Zhizhi teamed up with Yao Ming for the first time in five years on Sunday but they were unable to prevent an 88-78 Stankovic Cup loss to Brazil.

Australia also came from 13 points down in the third quarter to beat France, 77-71, just days away from the World Championships.

Wang scored six points on his early return from an ankle injury while Yao, in his second match back from a broken foot, was outclassed by Tiago Splitter in a disappointing evening for China.

China are placing their hopes on Wang and Yao, dubbed the "Ming-Zhi Dynasty," to bring the nation's basketball team into the world elite by the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Former Dallas Maverick power forward Wang, back in the fold after publicly apologizing for shunning the national team during a four-year stint in the United States, drew cheers from the crowd as he took the court in the first period.

But Brazil took a five-point lead at the start of the third quarter and expanded to 75-51 by the end of the period as Splitter hit tough shots over Houston Rockets center Yao.

Phoenix Sun guard Leandro Barbosa's quick drives to the basket helped the Brazilian attack to repeatedly break down China's defense for easy baskets and free throws.

"We had a great game plan today against China, especially in defense because we had a plan to play good defense against Yao Ming," Brazilian coach Xavier Ferreira said.

"We had good defense, especially in the third quarter, we improved on our rebounding and had good offensive movement, that was the key for the game tonight."

In the fourth China clawed their way back to within 10 on the shooting of center Yi Jianlian, guard Zhang Qingpeng and power forward Du Feng.

Yi, considered a future NBA prospect, led the Chinese side with 21 points and 12 rebounds, while Yao chipped in 14 points and snared six boards.

China had started strongly with Yao netting seven points in the first quarter before being eclipsed by Splitter. *AFP*

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Tuesday, August 15, 2006

Ang kwento ng panget, mas pinaganda!
iDOL ABC
Letty la más fea
mon-sun 6pm
Premieres Aug 14
ABC

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				Dream Music Videos	V League				Sentro	World's Most Amazing Videos	TNA Impact		Ultimate Guinness World Records		Big News	ALI			
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Zenki	Yakitate! Japan	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning		Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Bandila	Correspondents	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		House		Worst Case Scenario		The Ultimate Fighter		The Amazing Race 7				Ripley's Believe It or Not		Fear		CSI: NY (Season 2)		Rescue Me (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Pipo & Dexi/ My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinema One		Bagets				Till There Was You				Takot Ako Sa Darling Ko				John & Marsha '91				Pila Balde	
Cinemax		The Great Impostor (2:50 PM)			Delusion (4:45 PM)				Somebody Has To Shoot The Picture			Van Helsing				For Better Or Worse (10:10PM)			Into The Sun (11:40PM)
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		The Grid		E-Ring		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
Discovery Channel		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Rides		The History Of Singapore		Perfect Disaster		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		Conspiracy Theories		Perfect Disaster		Blueprint For Disaster	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-lakative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science Yr 2	Phil Of The Future	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Kiana's Flex Appeal	Cheerleading Open Div 2001	World Tenpin Masters '05		Extreme Programming Sports Max 2006/07		Evian Masters Day 2				Sportscenter Asia	Pool: Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The O.C 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Skating With Celebrities		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Octavia Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bahay Mo Ba To?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye II				Strong Medicine		Hustle		Judging Amy		Riding The Bus With My Sister			
HBO	The Last Ride			Every Time We Say Goodbye			McHale's Navy (5:45 PM)				Seed Of Chucky (7:40 PM)			Entourage 07 The Scene	Entourage 08: New York (9:25 PM)	Birth			The Last Days Of Disco
Hero TV	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	B'Daman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Sabes On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arris		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arris	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Smackdown				X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Bottomline		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Designer Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Emeril Live		Boy Meets Grill	E! News Weekend		Look For Less	Martha		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	
MTV Philippines		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	Sessions Up Dharma Down	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	Handpicked Up Dharma Down	TRL		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Arena		MTV Hits	Jams
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wild Orphans	National Geographic Specials		Built For Destruction		Hidden Worlds: Africa's Hog Heaven		Top 5 - Predators		WOW! Be the Creature Expedition: Gelada Baboon		About Asia		Mega Speed Week		Crash Scene Investigation: Train Collision		Spirit Talk: Harem Conspiracy	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alap			Dyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Utang Ko Sa'yo Ang Buhay Ko				May Sugat Ang Kahapon				Basta Ikaw Nanginginig Pa				Bakit Ikaw Pa Rin?				One Heart
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Na-Scam Ka Na Ba?		News On Q	[illegible]		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Alayon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	North Shore		Australia's Next Top Model		Jake In Progress	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Trail		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		Billiards								USA96 World Tour: USA vs SOUTH KOREA				World Pool 2006 Masters		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	World Table Tennis: Sr. T. Suss vs. L. Wang	
Sports Plus				Raceworld	Golf Today	World Game		NASCAR Nextel Cup Highlights		BM Scuba Diving	Nopi Tunervision	Ultimate Fighting Championship Brazil				World Poker Tour Hollywood Home			
Star Movies	Phantom Below (2:45 PM)				Snatch (4:20 PM)			Eve's Christmas			The Sweetest Thing (7:40 PM)			Barbershop 2 Back In Business				The Aviator (10:50PM)	
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Life As We Know It		One Tree Hill		Kevin Hill		Seinfeld	Life As We Know It
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon	Spirits	Blog	Wazzup Wazzup	High School Reunion 3		Smallville (8:20 PM)	Gilmore Girls (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Men's Room

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

SPORTS

Balce stamps mark with 2 junior titles in Olivarez tilt

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP VETERAN Mark Balce pulled off an impressive title double in the boys' 18-under and 16-under play yesterday in the Olivarez Age Group Tennis Championships at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque City.

The third-ranked Balce used a variety of shots to beat fourth seed Jolo Opulencia, 6-3, 6-1, for his sixth 18-under title of the year before claiming a fifth 16-under crown by drubbing Juan Fidel Regis, 6-1, 6-1.

In other finals, third seed Shannin Olivarez stunned top seed Joan Opulencia, 6-4, 6-1, to snare the girls' 14-under title; No. 2 Melissa Orteza upended top seed Trudy Amoranto, 7-5, 7-5, for the girls' 18-under title; and unranked Jennifer Salomon scored the tournament's biggest victory, winning the 16-under crown over Joan Opulencia, 6-3, 6-4.

In the boys' competitions, second seed Jose Lorenzo Ferrer captured the boys' 14-under title over Kyle Cordero, 6-3, 6-1, second seed Jacob Lagman downed third seed Arjohn dela Cruz, 6-2, 6-1, for the boys' 12-under plume, and third seed Ericka Lagura took the unisex 10-under title over Mark Escares with a 6-0, 6-7 (4), 6-3 win.

4 WNCAA teams score No. 2

LA CONSOLACION, UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE Pacific, World Citi Colleges and San Beda-Alabang sank their respective foes over the weekend to post 2-0 records in the WNCAA 37th season senior volleyball tournament at the RTU gym. Lyceum, Senior A champion last season, won its debut game against St. Francis of Assisi College, 25-13, 25-9, 25-16. LCCM, which joined the league only last year, beat Siena College, 25-9, 25-18, 25-13; UA&P was stretched to five sets by St. Scholastica but still prevailed, 25-15, 21-25, 25-21, 23-25, 16-14; WCC buried Philippine Women's University, 25-4, 25-16, 25-11; and SBCA routed Centro Escolar, 25-17, 25-20, 25-14. The four losers are winless in two games.

FELIX Cortez (left) and Gary Sales show the Honey Cup, symbolic of the RP tandem's victory in the International Pairs finals, in Cardiff, Wales.

Filipino golfers put away International Pairs crown

THE PHILIPPINE TANDEM OF FELIX CORTEZ and Gary Sales bucked an early second-round charge by Team France to win the recent International Pairs World Finals at the Roman Road course of Celtic Manor Resort in Cardiff, Wales—site of the 2010 Ryder Cup.

The Filipinos, with rounds of 46-40 under the two-man Stableford scoring format used for the 36-hole event among corporate executives, clinched the title by three points over the French, 86-83, with Ireland placing third with 82.

France also trailed the Philippines by three after the first round, with England a close third with 42 points followed by South Africa with 41 and Ireland, Canada and Scotland with 40.

Represented by Celine Mex and Robert Foort, France grabbed the lead early in the second round with birdies on the first three holes. On the 13th hole, the French went 4 under for the day and 1 ahead of the Filipinos for the tournament.

But Cortez and Sales charged ahead with birdies on the 13th, 14th, 15th and 17th.

Sales capped the explosive RP finish with a par-saving shot—a 160-yard fairway bunker blast to within 2 feet of the hole—which drew huge applause from the 18th green gallery.

"When I saw the International Pairs website after we had qualified, I said to Gary that I didn't think we had a chance," Cortez said. "And here we are with the trophy. We can't believe it."

This year's International Pairs competition drew about 21,000 qualifiers from all over the world with all the national winners advancing to the World Finals

Dumandan tops C'fornia golf

MARVIN DUMANDAN RALLIED WITH A SIZZLING 32 ON THE BACK NINE TO finish with a one-under-71 and a one-stroke win in the North Orange County amateur golf championship at the Black Gold Golf Club in Yorba Linda, California, on Sunday.

The Philippine team mainstay nipped the tall and power-hitting American Freddy Wolfe with a 140 total at the close of the 36-hole tournament, which is part of the amateurgolf.com Tour, California's premier amateur golf circuit.

The 6-foot-6 Wolfe, incoming junior at UC Berkeley who boasts an average drive of 325 yards, closed with a 70 for a 141 total.

Michael Bibat churned out the day's best score—a four-under par 68—to tie Filipino compatriot Gene Bondoc, who carded a 71, for third place at 143.

Jay Bayron, the fourth Philippine team member in the tournament, also rallied with a 71 but missed making it to the top 10 with a 149 for 11th place. He shot a 78 Saturday.

Dumandan blew a two-shot lead overnight but came back with an eagle on the par-5 No. 13 and a closing birdie to foil Wolfe's bid for a playoff.

"Wolfe played really steady golf but Marvin just refused to give up," said Chris Guerrero, coach of the four-man RP squad training under the ICTSI golf program.

Dumandan's victory is expected to bolster his confidence when he leads the eight-man RP team to next week's Singapore Amateur Golf Championship.

Dumandan appeared to have lost the battle after hitting the turn with a bogey-marred 39.

He finally got going with a birdie on No. 12 and then moved ahead again by blasting in from a greenside bunker for an eagle on the next hole.

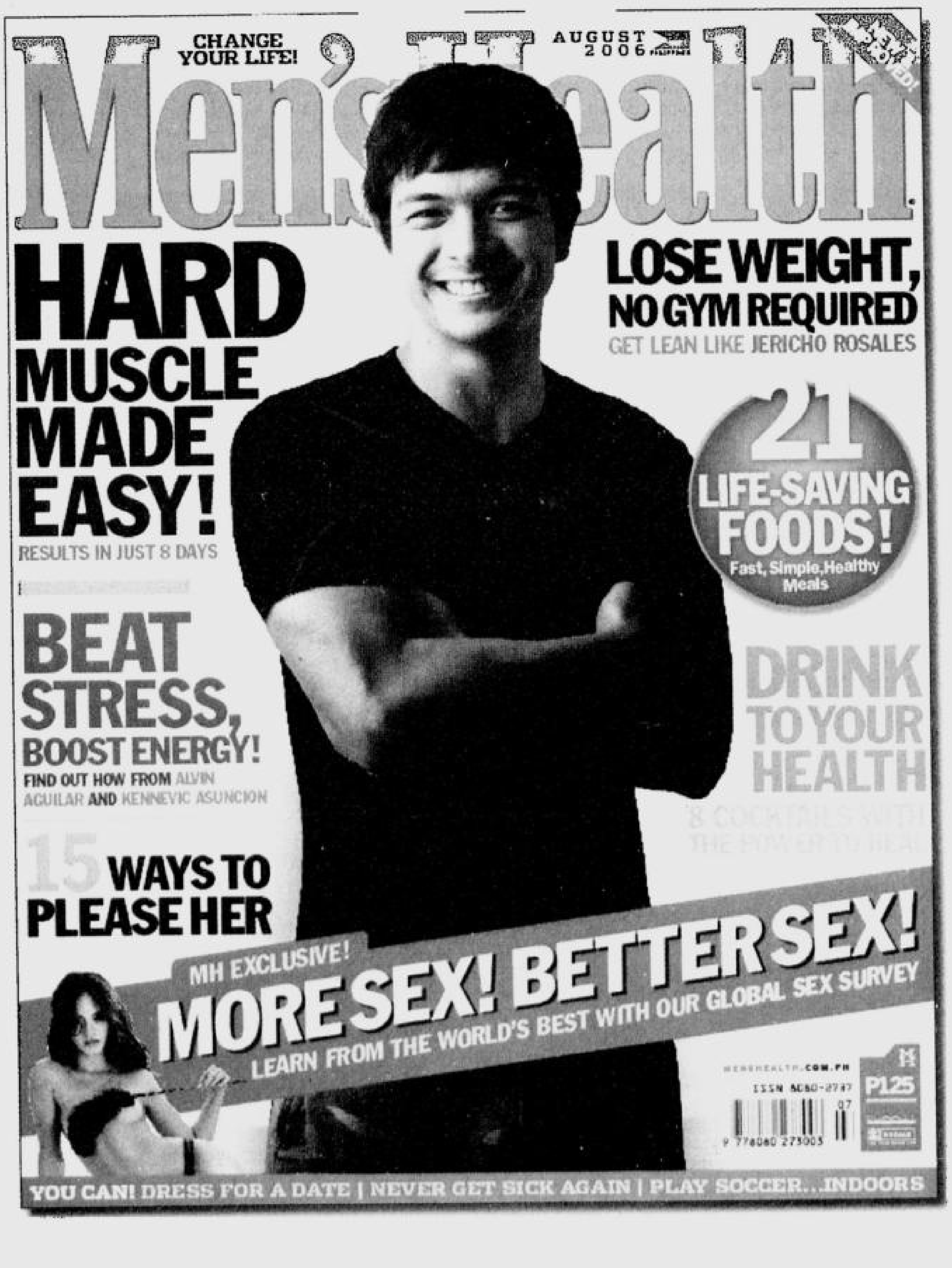
The Filipino star gunned down another birdie on No. 15, yielded the stroke back on the next, and Wolfe moved within one again with a birdie on the 17th.

Both players hit their drive down the middle of the par-5 18th fairway with the American leaving Dumandan by some 25 yards.

But the Filipino, ignoring an out-of-bounds area on the left and a big lateral hazard, struck a solid 4-iron to within 15 feet off the cup. He two-putted for birdie.

Wolfe also finished with a two-putt birdie as he also reached the green, this time with a 6-iron second shot.

MARVIN Dumandan hits his second shot on No. 12 of Black Gold Golf Club. He birdied the hole. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO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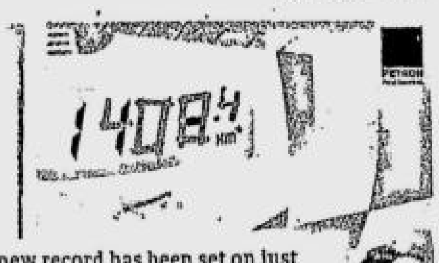


A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

T-bill rates decline across the board

91-day yield settles at 5.38%; 1-year at 7.339%

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES dropped across all maturities for the second straight auction yesterday, fueled mainly by declining interest rates abroad and expectations that inflation would further ease in the months ahead.

The bellwether 91-day yield fell 6.7 basis points to 5.38 percent. The drop came on the back of strong appetite for the three-month government securities, with tenders reaching P4.68 billion compared with the government's debt offering of only P2 billion for each maturity. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

"The market's oversubscription was expected amid a benign interest rate environment, especially with the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) keeping its policy rates unchanged," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a briefing after the auction.

The rate for the 182-day bills fell 16 basis points to 6.397 percent as volume of bids hit P8.42 billion. The 364-day bill fetched 7.339 percent, 16.4 basis points lower than its previous rate.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted a total of P6 billion worth of bids, thus raising the entire amount of its debt offering.

Cruz explained that the move of the US Federal Reserve to put an end to its successive policy rate increases eased pressure for interest rates in emerging economies to go up. An increase in US rates makes government securities in emerging markets like the Philippines less attractive,

T-BILL/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

Finance cuts BIR collection target for 2007 /B2

Chaos at the airport /B4

Crude oil prices down in Asia /B6

Bank sees peso breaching 50:$1 in Sept.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO CAN CLIMB TO THE 50 LEVEL against the US dollar as early as next month and rally further to the 49:$1 level by March next year given the country's improving economic fundamentals, Development Bank of Singapore projected.

An Aug. 10 commentary by DBS' Asian currency research group said the prospect for the peso was "brightening with upgrades in outlook for budget, exports and overseas worker remittances."

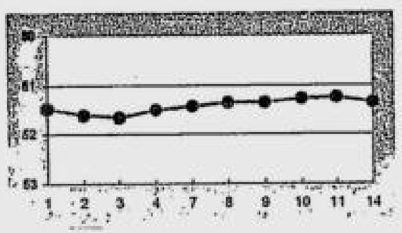
"Momentum remains for the US dollar to move lower (against the peso) to test psychological support at 50," the DBS said.

DBS expected the local currency to break past the year's high of 50.88 seen last March and hit 50.50 by September and 50:$1 by year's end.

BANK/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

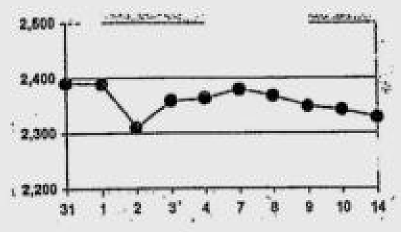
₱51.35 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 14, 2006

¥115.53 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 11, 2006

GOLD: $629.20-629.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 14, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks end lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.6-PERCENT lower yesterday amid an absence of fresh leads and in the wake of Wall Street's retreat on Friday, dealers said.

Losses on Wall Street on fears of an economic slowdown in the US and uncertainties on interest rates dampened investor sentiment, they said.

The composite index shed 13.96 points to 2,327.50 after moving between 2,326.06 and 2,345.82. The all-shares index fell 5.52 points to 1,437.11.

Turnover was 1.75 billion shares valued at P2.63 billion. Losers outnumbered gainers 52 to 28, with 48 stocks unchanged.

"The market is lacking fresh leads with the second-quarter earnings season winding down," WestlinkGlobal Equities chair Rommel Macapagal said.

SHARES/ B4

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Finance cuts BIR collection target for 2007

Agency no longer responsible for meeting tax revenue goal from treasury bills, bonds

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has slashed by P50 billion the Bureau of Internal Revenue's collection target for next year.

The BIR found its collection target for 2007, which was set by the national government, too high. This prompted the agency to ask the DOF to reduce the goal.

The DOF granted the BIR's plea and reduced the agency's collection target to P734 billion from the original level of P784 billion.

The P50 billion taken out of the BIR 2007 target, according to the DOF, represents taxes on treasury bills and bonds, including documentary stamp tax.

The BIR earlier said it should not be made accountable for shortfalls in collection of taxes on government securities, noting that tax collections on these depended solely on the amount of T-bills and bonds issued by the Bureau of the Treasury.

The DOF, however, thumbed down another request of the BIR to also reduce its P675.4-billion tax collection target for this year.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves has directed the BIR to stick to the original 2006 target, aware of the adverse impact on the country's image in the international community of making changes in the fiscal targets in the middle of a current year.

The BIR had sought the lowering of its targets this year and next after posting collection shortfalls in the past months. The agency blamed the cancellation of some scheduled auctions of government securities by the BTr for the collection shortfalls

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said that for programming purposes, the government would still set its tax schedule for next year at P784 billion. But he said the BIR would not be made accountable for the P50 billion in expected tax collection from the government securities issued by the BTr.

"The P50 billion will not be included in the evaluation of the BIR's performance," Beltran said.

Beltran said the DOF's decision was prompted by an opinion issued by the oversight committee in the Lower House. The committee said the BIR should not be made responsible for the attainment of the expected tax collection from the issuance of T-bills and bonds.

However, Beltran said the BIR should continue auditing the remittances to the national government of the taxes collected from government securities.

In the first six months of the year, the BIR's tax collection stood at P318.4 billion. This was lower than its official collection target of P321.2 billion for the first semester.

The DOF said it had second thoughts in granting the BIR request, as it believed that taxes on government securities were internal revenues and should form part of the BIR's collection target.

But the DOF eventually agreed to the proposal, saying there could still be flexibility in setting of fiscal targets for the coming years.

The setting of collection targets have become critical for revenue collecting agencies—the BIR and the Bureau of Customs—in view of the implementation of the Lateral Attrition Law.

Under the law, revenue collectors will be granted incentives or imposed penalties depending on there revenue collection performance.

Those who will meet their targets will be given monetary incentives, while those who will post a shortfall of at least 7.5 percent of their goals face penalties or even dismissal.

Shame banana

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

GO AHEAD, JUST ASK ME, HEY, YOU THERE bald fellow, what do you think we really need in this country aside from air-conditioned malls the size of Singapore.

I will have to say it's more poor people who will kill or die for used clothing—okay, imported used clothing, otherwise known as *ukay-ukay*.

As it turned out, we don't have enough of the poor. And so the demand for *ukay-ukay* seems to be going down fast.

That's why this cute administration of Gloriaetta has no choice but to send *ukay-ukay* to those people in Bicol who were driven away from their homes by Mt. Mayon.

I am not kidding—the Palace delivered used clothing to Bicol as relief goods, which were actually confiscated by the Bureau of Customs.

Plus a little cash, of course, an amount not even equal to the plane fares of the lawmakers who, the Palace insisted, actually paid for their Europe trip with Gloriaetta!

I am not sure if the evacuees need "branded" clothing at this time. I don't even know if the cash actually reached them, not to mention the boxes of "Maling."

I just know that the much-maligned Mark Jimenez, for instance, personally delivered ready-to-eat food to a lot of evacuation sites, plus P1,000 per family.

And so to all the evacuees in Bicol, I can only say it's your fault. Gloriaetta suffered a sound beating there in Bicol in 2004.

***

It looks like this cute administration is not blinking on the bill in Congress that seeks to remove huge tax breaks for certain priority investments.

And the bill will likely become law, despite the US government's—how shall I put it—*er*, 'suggestion' for this cute administration to exercise caution on the matter.

From what I heard, US officials from Washington recently met with Gloriaetta's Cabinet members in an exclusive dinner hosted by the US embassy here.

The US side of course talked a lot about terrorism. The US boys also told the locals, by the way, that the bill taking away the tax perks was bad for business—i.e. US firms.

Now the version in the House of Representatives seeks to remove the income tax holiday granted to priority investments, but retains the tax exemption of imported equipment.

The Senate version removes everything. Which version will come out in the end is still up to anybody's guess. Or lobby!

Already, the usually noisy guys in business are badmouthing the bill. They say for instance that other countries in our region are still offering tax breaks to investors.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila retorts that, while this country needs to compete with its neighbors, it also has a big problem unique in the region.

And that is the fiscal crisis. If not for this, as Favila puts it, the government would even add to the existing tax incentives. And he says it can still do so in the future.

In short, everybody must sacrifice today. Including government officials, boss?

***

And so the ERC—the Energy Regulatory Commission, the lord and protector of consumers—has new faces, namely, Jose Reyes and Ma. Theresa Castañeda.

According to reports, Reyes is replacing the retiring ERC commissioner Jesus Alcordo, while Castañeda takes the place of Oliver Butalid. It's all the same banana.

Word in the power industry puts Reyes as an alter ego of Alcordo. And so many in the sector think nothing actually changes.

For one, Reyes was a subordinate of Alcordo in Reynolds Philippines. In the 1990s, when Alcordo formed East Asia Power, he again hired Reyes.

(East Asia Power reportedly partnered with Sunny Sun, who recently became famous for the YNN fiasco in the Masinloc power plant bidding, in getting a supply contract with Meralco at that time for East Asia Power's barges in Navotas for a handsome "success fee.")

When Alcordo became president of Napocor, Reyes again became a ranking officer of the state-owned firm. The same was true during Alcordo's term as ERC commissioner.

In other words, the two come a long way—you know, mentor-protégé.

Now who endorsed Castaneda? I won't be surprised if it's also the backer of Reyes.

The apologists of this cute administration talk about "continuity of policy" to defend the new appointments. Really? That's not continuity of policy; it's more of a strangle hold on policies.

For what will they continue—that famous Resolution 21 of the ERC, which allowed Meralco to negotiate a supply contract with Sunny Sun's YNN without the public bidding that was required by law?

That's why certain ERC commissioners were said to be part of the Masinloc gang! Isn't it a shame that this country of more than 80 million people has no other qualified individuals other than those close to retiring ERC bananas?

***

Word has it that our favorite insurance playboy is haggling on the $200,000 worth of insurance claim of an influential family. The claim involves a helicopter. Our handsome insurance hero offers to settle only half of the claim. The influential family gets a little cash. The rest is payable in kind; i.e. luxury car.

Now word from the office of the revenue commissioner has it that the same lover boy has yet to produce proof on the settlement of his company's P800-million documentary stamp tax liabilities, which was dug up by the BIR way back in 1998. BIR insiders also wonder, if the liability was indeed settled, how come our insurance superstar had to see one of the revenue deputy commissioners a couple of years ago "in private?"

To think the insurance guy is living it up nowadays, taking his rumored girlfriend (Erlinda something, who is said to be either No. 2 or No. 3) to out-of-town dinner dates by helicopter rides.

Meralco settles $80-M ADB loan

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED MANILA ELECTRIC CO. has fully repaid an $80-million loan to the Asian Development Bank, paving the way for possible fresh loans from the multilateral lender.

In a briefing yesterday, Meralco vice president and treasurer Rafael Andrada said the loan was repaid last June 1, and discussions were already underway with ADB for some new loans.

"We're in discussions with ADB for some loans on the private sector side. Because the loans that we took out before was on the public sector side," he said.

For these possible new ADB loans, he said one program that these could fund was Meralco's acquisition of National Transmission Corp.'s sub-transmission assets in its franchise area.

These assets would cost about P1 billion, Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said.

The ADB loan was secured in the early 90s when the country was undergoing a massive power crisis, with power outages lasting for hours on a daily basis all over the country.

The loan repayment period was spread between 10 and 15 years.

Apart from the ADB loan, Andrada said Meralco was also considering prepaying some of its loans to commercial banks this October.

"The creditors have this waterfall formula: If we generate more cash than we require, it goes to that payment process. The priority is Meralco's capital expenditures, and then payment to creditors," he explained

He said Meralco also prepaid some of its obligations to BPI Capital, Citibank, Equitable-PCIBank and Banco de Oro last March and June.

120
DAYS TO THE

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia lead the banging of the Kalatong to signal the start of the official countdown for the holding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (Asean) Summit 2006 in Cebu in December and the switching of the Asean Digital countdown marker in ceremonies held at the Fuente Osmeña Circle in Cebu City. Behind the First Gentleman is Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Francisco Benedicto. MARCELINO PASCUA OPS-NIB PHOTO

10% GROWTH IN SPENDING

Hardware, services top IT growth areas in RP

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NEXT THREE YEARS WILL BE very lucrative for IT vendors and service providers in the Philippines as the country's IT spending grows by a compounded rate of 10.4 percent yearly through 2010, according to the latest study of IDC Market Research Sdn Bhd (Malaysia), a wholly owned subsidiary of the US-based global IT intelligence firm International Data Group.

In a statement, IDC Market Research said that its study showed that hardware centricity was one area with large growth potential in the country, "owing to the fact that a large proportion of the population has yet to adopt or fully implement IT." The hardware segment will account for 67 percent of the total sales in the Philippine IT market this year. PCs, networking hardware, printers, and smart handheld devices will likely top the demand.

According to the same study, services is the second-largest growth area and it is expected to account for 22 percent of the total market.

The software segment is seen to garner 11 percent.

Spending on these segments will be driven by the rapidly growing IT infrastructure requirement for information and data security, as well as for more complex IT management processes.

IDC said 2005 saw major shifts in the IT spending level in the Philippines, with the industry growing by 20 percent to reach $1.4 billion, after hitting the $1 billion in 2004. It also noted renewed commitments from the end-user community to zero in on key IT investments. The research firm said these IT investments allowed companies to achieve business efficiency, as well as provided opportunities for IT vendors and service providers.

Commenting on the report, IDC Philippines senior analyst Jubert Daniel Alberto said in a statement, "The relative under-penetration of the country bodes well for IT vendors and service providers in the Philippines ... over the next five years, providing room for business growth and addressable opportunity."

IDC said companies wanted to achieve a higher level of business efficiency to be able to offer product innovations and remain competitive. Furthermore, demand from the communications and media, banking, and hi-tech manufacturing industries will still heavily shape the IT spending landscape in the country, it added.

T-bill rates decline across the board

From page B1

therefore creating pressures for interest rates in such markets to go up as well.

The Fed's policy interest rate now stands at 5.25 percent following the 17 successive rate increases since June 2004.

Cruz noted that other emerging economies were no longer looking at tightening their monetary policies and that some were even starting to loosen up following the Fed freeze on its rate increases.

In the case of the Philippines, the BSP decided during the recent meeting of the Monetary Board to keep policy rates steady at 7.25 percent for overnight borrowing and 9.75 percent for overnight lending, both unchanged since October last year.

Cruz said expectations that inflation would subside in the coming months also contributed to the drop in treasury bill rates.

Expected inflation is normally taken into account by banks when bidding for government securities.

The government earlier expected inflation to hit between 7.3 and 7.9 percent this year, but a tempered increase in consumer prices recorded in the past months led economists to believe that average inflation for the full year would be lower.

The annual inflation rate in July hit only 6.4 percent, and average year-on-year inflation for the first seven months of the year stood at 7 percent.

Cruz also noted the government's improving fiscal condition as a factor for the drop in treasury bill rates.

Bank sees peso breaching 50:$1 in September

From page B1

The upturn is seen to extend next year to test 49.50 by March and 49:$1 by June, fueled by prospects of potential sovereign credit-rating upgrades for the Philippines.

As of yesterday, the local currency closed at ___ from Friday's 51.25 against the greenback.

"The budget deficit totaled P31.5 billion in the first half of 2006, and is likely to well undershoot the full-year target of P125 billion for 2006," DBS said.

More importantly, DBS noted that the government's revenue collection from the expanded value-added tax amounted to P38.22 billion in the first six months, 23 percent better than the official target of P31.03 billion.

"This should help assuage the concern of rating agencies that efforts to boost revenue are starting to bear fruit," DBS said.

"The better fiscal position coupled with lower inflation will allow the central bank to direct monetary policy toward supporting growth," it added.

Philippine sovereign credit is currently rated four notches below investment grade by Moody's Investor Service, three notches below by Standard & Poor's and two notches below by Fitch Ratings.

"The steady uptrend in foreign reserves, which hit a new record of P21.1 billion in June 2006, points to a healthy balance-of-payments position," DBS said.

It also noted that the country's export target for 2006 was lifted to 10 percent from 8 percent owing to the better-than-expected performance in electronics.

"As we head closer to the fourth quarter (of 2006), focus should return to seasonal inflows from overseas worker remittances," DBS said, noting that these remittances increased 14 percent year-on-year in the first half, above the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' original target of 10 percent.

The BSP has revised its projected growth in OFW remittances for this year to 11 percent.

On exports, the government's rosier outlook was in line with the 10.1-percent expected expansion by the global semiconductor market for this year.

The import growth projection for the year was likewise jacked up by the government to 11 percent from 9 percent during the forecast in March.

DA seeks P6-B budget for irrigation projects

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS seeking a budget of P6 billion for the rehabilitation of irrigation facilities next year.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban said the department was pursuing the inclusion of the amount in its 2007 budget.

Panganiban explained that the rehabilitation of these facilities, which were used to irrigate 20,000 hectares of rice lands, were necessary in sustaining the gains achieved by the farm sector so far.

"They (the economic managers) already saw the impact of the timely release of the budget for irrigation on this year's production. The growth level this year can be replicated next year given the needed funds for irrigation," he said.

The Department of Budget and Management released P4.23 billion to the department for irrigation (P1.93 billion) and distribution of certified seeds (P2.3 billion) in the first semester.

He said that the early release of this year's budget improved existing irrigation facilities including Pantabangan, Magat, Angat and Casecnan and the delivery of water to some 55,000 hectares of farmlands during the dry season.

He said that the additional funds were needed to complete the rehabilitation of all existing irrigation facilities that covered a total of 75,000 hectares of farmlands.

In a separate report, the National Irrigation Administration, an attached agency of the DA, said it was pursuing the implementation of 39 irrigation projects: 14 foreign-assisted, 21 locally-funded (including continuing activities and carry-over projects) and four inter-agency projects.

The other projects for next year include the repair and rehabilitation of national and communal water systems, organization and development of irrigators' associations, and the preparation of feasibility studies on and the packaging of potential projects.

Some 11,430 jobs were generated in the construction of new irrigation projects and rehabilitation of existing irrigation systems this year.

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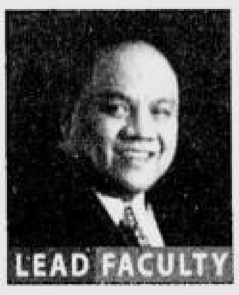
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This program forms part of a series of interactive short courses on Entrepreneurship in the Real Estate Industry developed by AIM's Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. It is intended for managers of Acquired Assets Departments of banks/financial institutions, for property developers/managers, and for property owners.

The course aims to:
1. Provide participants with a systematic framework and process for converting idle real property assets into profitable development ventures/projects.
2. Present the basic economics of selected options for real property asset development.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Assessing Opportunities for Idle Properties and Semi-Developed Properties: An Analytical Framework
   - Trends in Property Development in Key Sub-sectors (residential, commercial and mixed-use, leisure-resorts)
   - Development Prototypes
2. Planning for Property Development
   - Adopting the business plan framework for property development
3. Implementation Issues: Joint Development Options
4. Marketing Issues
5. Financing Options


LEAD FACULTY

The faculty for this course, which is participated in by key industry players, is led by Professor Danilo A. Antonio, a current member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship [ACE] core faculty as a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship [ME] Program.

Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives under the Master in Business Administration Program.

Prof. Antonio remains active in various business endeavors, particularly in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He is CEO and founder of LAND-EXCEL Consulting, CEO of Phoenix Land Inc., developer of Las Haciendas Resort Farms, CEO of Excelsis Land, developer of Desta & Madison South residential villages and Chairman of Canyon Woods Resort Club.

Prof. Antonio holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management (1978) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University (1974).

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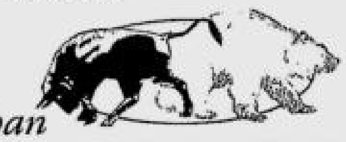


Ron Nathan

I WAS FLYING TO CEBU OVER THE WEEKEND to get myself cloned, otherwise there will be nobody to continue my jokes after I retire in 14 years time. There was absolute chaos at the domestic airport. There were enormous queues of passengers, delayed hours by the new regulations. Absolutely no hand carry luggage was allowed on board, except baby's milk and medicines, exempted from the ban.

One man had a prosthetic leg, lost in a 70-percent off sale in one of the malls, and the airport officials insisted on unscrewing it. At the base, they found a white powder, which they thought might be an explosive or heroin, but it turned out to be foot powder. "Sorry", said the official. "Just relax and we'll screw you".

Everyone was searched intimately three times by an attractive member of the opposite sex. I haven't had so much pleasure in years and it was hard to conceal.

Halfway through the flight, I could not breathe so I pulled out my asthma spray, which looks like a tiny gun. Instantly, two sky marshals appeared with anti-tank guns. "Drop it," they yelled. I tried to explain what it was but they wouldn't listen. I was escorted into the cockpit. Eventually, one of the marshals decided to throw it out of the plane. He opened the cargo door at 35,000 feet. Thirty-eight passengers are missing.

Seven of the eight counts of impeachment against the President were dismissed out of hand. The last one stating she was unfit to rule because of a fatty liver was referred to the Senate. Why don't they liver alone?

The Mayon volcano is spewing mayonnaise and lava trees are sprouting everywhere, men's lava trees and women's lava trees.

The capital of Iran has been renamed Terroran.

* * *

Some readers have been annoyed with me because I refused to give any guidance on APX but I could not as I had no information. Then on Thursday morning, out of the blue, CREW posted an eight-page disclosure with a drilling update on the Masara (Apex) mine. Simultaneously, Apex posted an almost identical one. If you go to the PSE website you can read it in detail but here is a summary:

"A total of 1.4 million ounces of gold has been estimated, giving 7 to 9 years of production. Compared with previous estimates, the indicated resources have increased 70 percent to 236,000 ounces.

Crew is pleased to report that 17,000 meters new core drilling has been completed and is ongoing with 8 drill rigs at site. Drilling has been concentrated on the Masara-Bonanza vein, which offers the largest and most accessible vein system and has been selected for initial underground development. The system hosts multiple veins with more than 2,000 meters strike-length, of which only a small portion was mined historically.

The assay results from current drilling-all veins are: 5.9 grams a ton gold, 19.8 grams silver and an unknown amount of copper. Commenting on these results, Mr. Jan Vestrum, CEO of Crew Gold stated:

"It is pleasing to see the confirmation of the historical resource data together with the discovery of additional veins in the Masara-Bonanza system and the expanded potential for copper-gold ore systems. The company is looking forward to commissioning a 500-ton per day plant in September together with the expanded plant in late calendar quarter, 2007. This expansion will provide total production capacity of approximately 2900 tons per day". I DO NOT OWN ANY SHARES IN APX and have not had time to analyze the report.

In the U.S., Bernanke paused and the argument on whether he should have raised rates once more now still rages. I repeat what I wrote last week. Wall Street will remain in a nervous state until Christmas, by which time there will be sufficient inflation data to show whether he made the right call or not. The economy is in no danger of going into a recession so it is only inflationary pressures that he has to watch.

Here at home, the news remain good. Agriculture production rose 5.4 percent in the first half owing to heavier rainfall. This will stabilized the price of food and ensure work for this sector, which accounts for 20 percent of the workforce.

Other good news is that exports in June rose 20 percent, more than expected, and this followed a 17-percent gain in May. This will help lessen the trade deficit, which is covered easily by remittances. The Bureau of Customs beat its collection target for the sixth month after firing people who missed their targets and replacing them.

The peso reached its best level in three months and the Treasury is considering buying back all the short-term debt and issuing P20-P30 billion of 10-year bonds in exchange. It has already bought back medium-term debt and issued P111 billion of 3-, 5- and 7-year bonds. The effect is to lengthen maturity dates so that the country will reduce interest payments and have more money for infrastructure, schools and hospitals. "At the end of the day, it will be a win-win situation for the Philippine capital markets".

Company results were mixed. ALI announced profits only up 8 percent for the first half. ALI BABA from P14 to P13.25. AC did much better, even allowing for non-recurring gains of P2.5 billion. FLI was disappointing with sales, up 22 percent and profits 9 percent. MWC did well and reached a new high of P9.2. TEL reported an increase in profits of 6 percent but after forex losses, this turned into an 8-percent loss. The shares fell sharply until the company announced a P50 dividend. PX announced a first-half profit of P1.2 billion, in line with expectations.

BCI declared a 20-percent stock dividend, CHIB a P30 cash dividend and a 25-percent stock dividend, and PERC a 30-percent stock dividend. I wish they would stop doing this, as I have to adjust all my charts.

Baguio Mines is a backdoor listing for PAL and GEI is thought to be a backdoor listing for an Australian mining company. There is also a backdoor listing for people with low esteem. (Don't ask. It is a joke).

As Monday is a holiday, my next article will appear on Wednesday. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

SM Investments reports 85% jump in 1st half profit to ₱5.05B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Retail sales contributed 70% of ₱27.8B in revenues

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. (SMIC), THE FLAGship of mall tycoon Henry Sy, posted an 85-percent jump in net profit for the first six months to P5.05 billion from P2.7 billion a year ago, bolstered mainly by one-time gain from the sale of shares linked to its banking subsidiary Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Including its share in companies where it has a minority interest, net income in the first half rose 62 percent to P7.15 billion from P4.4 billion last year.

In a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SMIC said it booked extraordinary income of P1.3 billion in the first quarter of 2006 from the sale of Global Depository Receipts--or a financial instrument used to raise capital in either U.S. dollars or euros.

The GDRs, whose underlying securities are Banco de Oro shares, are listed on the London Stock Exchange.

SMIC's consolidated revenues for the six-month period amounted to P27.8 billion, up 11.1 percent from P25 billion in the same period last year.

Retail sales, which accounted for 70 percent of total revenues, rose 7.2 percent to P19.4 billion in the first half from P18.1 billion a year ago due to the contribution of new department stores--SM San Lazaro and SM Sucat, which were opened in late 2005, and SM Sta. Rosa, SM Clark and SM Mall of Asia, which were opened in the first half of 2006.

Real estate sales surged 830 percent in the first half to P450 million from P48.5 million due to the sale of condominium units of SM Development Corp.'s (SMDC) Chateau Elysee near SM City Bicutan in Parañaque, as well as the sale of units at the Mezza Residences near SM City Sta. Mesa.

SMDC, which is 59-percent owned by SMIC, sold residential condominiums worth P806 million.

Rental revenue from malls, which represented 17 percent of total revenues, grew 16.8 percent to P4.9 billion in the first half from P4.2 billion last year.

Equity in net earnings of associates decreased by 7.9 percent to P912 million in 2006 from P990 million in 2005.

Dividend income improved by 31.3 percent to P638.3 million for the six-month period from P486.3 million last year mainly from more cash dividends from its investment in San Miguel Corp.

In terms of net income, shopping malls accounted for 40 percent, retail for 28 percent, and real estate, 3 percent. Banking and financial services and others accounted for 5.3 percent of total revenues and 19 percent of net income.

SM Prime, 52-percent owned by SMIC, reported its net income grew 9 percent in the first half to P2.6 billion.

Empire East turns around with ₱68.3-M profit in 1st half

PROPERTY FIRM EMPIRE EAST LAND HOLDings Inc. said it recorded a turnaround in net profit of P68.3 million in the first six months from a restated net loss of P263,000 last year due to higher revenues.

Empire East booked slight losses in the first half last year due to the treatment of dividends as expenses based on new accounting standards, sources explained.

In a report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Empire East said it booked revenues of P446.3 million in the first semester from P316.2 million in the same period last year.

Gross profit rose 89 percent to P146.6 million in the first six months from P77.5 million in the same period last year due to the construction of new and the completion of ongoing projects.

Sales were derived from the following projects: Laguna Bel-Air 3, Laguna Bel-Air 4 (Laguna), Greenhills Garden Square (Ortigas), California Garden Square (Mandaluyong), Xavier Hills (Quezon City) and The Cambridge Village (Pasig-Cainta area).

Another major revenue contributor was the interest income derived from in-house financing amounting to P147.6 million in the first half, up from P108 million in the same period last year.

Additional sources of revenue were commissions from a subsidiary, rentals of its Central Business Park office-warehouse and commercial spaces of various projects.

Operating expenses posted a slight increase to P244.4 million in 2006 from P239.7 million in 2005. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

First Gen net income down 7% in first half

POWER PLANT OPERATOR FIRST GEN Corp. (First Gen) of the Lopez group reported a 7-percent decline in its consolidated net income in the first half to $66.8 million from $71.8 million in the same period last year due to additional provisions for income taxes.

In a financial report to the Philippine Stock Exchange, it said the additional provisions for taxes were made after an income tax holiday previously enjoyed by First Gas Power Corp. (FGPC), First Gen's 60-percent-owned subsidiary, expired last May.

FGPC owns the 1,000-megawatt Santa Rita combined-cycle natural gas-fired power plant.

With the expiration of FGPC's income tax holiday in May, First Gen recognized a provision for deferred income taxes amounting to $9.2 million.

This offset last year's benefit from deferred income taxes of $3.8 million.

First Gen's income before income tax, however, was higher by 11.9 percent at $76 million in the first half from $68 million as a result of savings from the resolution of its disputes with both global conglomerate Siemens and its gas suppliers.

The savings was supplemented by a jump in interest income due to First Gen's cash investments.

Total revenues in the first half rose to $467.4 million, up 17.6 percent due to fuel price increases.

Of this, revenues from the sale of electricity rose 17.8 percent to $466.8 million during the six-month period from $396.3 million in 2005.

Higher sale of electricity was a result of an increase in the average prices of natural gas, a $23.3-million increase in supplemental charges due to accrued interests billed to Manila Electric Co. and lower sales tax charges due to the cancellation of excise taxes on natural gas.

Although fuel is a pass-through risk fully assumed by Meralco and does not affect the net income of the company, an increase in fuel prices, brought mainly by surging oil prices in the international market, contributed to the increase in revenues.

The increase in fuel prices was partially offset by changes in dispatch levels. Santa Rita posted a lower average dispatch of 75 percent for the first semester of 2006 from about 80 percent during the same period last year. This decrease was negated by a slight improvement in the average dispatch of San Lorenzo from 74 percent in 2005 to about 76 percent in 2006 given the completion of a San Lorenzo transmission line.

Administrative expenses went down by $6 million from the same period last year resulting from the favorable judgment in an arbitration case with Santa Rita's contractor, Siemens, and a similar settlement with the gas sellers. This generated $3 million in savings from payments in professional fees and taxes.

First Gen operates principally through its four power plants—the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita, 500-MW San Lorenzo, 225-MW Bauang and the 1.6-MW Agusan mini-hydro. It is the holding company for all of the Lopez Group's power generation assets.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 14, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	32.5	32	32.5	60,107,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	52.5	52.5	52.5	307,200
China Banking Corp.	705	705	705	705	230
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	340,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	77.5	78.5	77.5	78.5	21,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	39	38	39	315,000
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42	42	42	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	15,000
Security Bank Corp.	48	48.5	48	48.5	840,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	44	44	44	2,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.82	115,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1610	1605	1610	1,100
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	218	218	218	218	200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1900	.1900	1895	1895	470
Ivantage Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	150,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43.5	43.5	42.5	43	19,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp	42.5	42.5	42	42	614,300
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16.25	15.75	16	116,900
Manila Electric Co. B	24.75	25	24.75	24.75	191,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9	8.8	8.8	3,795,000
Petron Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.2	1,114,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	237,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	32	219,400
RFM Corp.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.85	510,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.8	1,755,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	64.5	89,900
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	74.5	74	74.5	41,600
Universal Robina Corp.	19	19	18.75	18.75	564,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,350,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.6	1,374,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.5	30,000
Phil Nat'l Const Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4.7	4.7	3.95	4	31,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.4	0.43	39,520,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	700,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	12,000,000
Ayala Corp.	412.5	420	410	415	144,980
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	80,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	4.95	194,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.035	0.035	0.032	0.032	16,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.86	197,000
APC Group Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	70,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	7,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	200,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	115,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	47,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	2,722,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.05	4.05	1,042,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	25,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	70,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	55,000
Medco Holdings	0.205	0.22	0.205	0.22	5,300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.27	0.35	0.27	0.31	2,480,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.2	4,200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	550,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.135	8,230,000
SM Investments Corp.	214	214	213	213	27,910
South China Resources Inc	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	780,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.125	0.13	0.11	0.13	40,950,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	800,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	930,200
Belle Corp.	1	1	1	1	900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,260,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	26,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	6,910,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	160,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	800,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1,350,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	15,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	2,239,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	7,908,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	2,660,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.17	0.185	0.17	0.185	600,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	32,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	3,350,000
SM Development Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.74	355,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	922,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0975	0.0975	0.09	0.09	2,300,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	5,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	109,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.32	1.38	1.32	1.38	12,043,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1030	1030	1015	1015	13,240
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.55	3.75	3.55	3.7	7,329,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2025	2025	2010	2015	61,560
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.1	546,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.0625	0.055	0.06	146,300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	40,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.032	145,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	72,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15	15	15	15	7,300
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	214,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,615,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.28	1.28	656,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	630,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	21,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.1	12,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.3	4.65	4.25	4.65	8,700,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.3	4.65	4.25	4.65	2,423,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	823,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	2,520,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.29	8,810,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.025	0.022	0.022	667,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.027	91,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	176,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.5	4.5	4.35	4.35	4,257,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.5	4.5	4.45	4.45	2,462,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	11,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.55	1,380,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	320,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	730,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	183,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	16,500,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	410,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	158,900
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	4,400
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17	17	265,000

CURRENCIES

August 15, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.785484	1.000000	51.3040
Japan	Yen	0.006756	0.008601	0.4413
United Kingdom	Pound	1.485351	1.891000	97.0159
Hongkong	Dollar	0.101001	0.128584	6.5969
Switzerland	Franc	0.632181	0.804829	41.2909
Canada	Dollar	0.698830	0.889680	45.6441
Singapore	Dollar	0.497268	0.633072	32.4791
Australia	Dollar	0.602550	0.767106	39.3556
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.083678	2.652731	136.0957
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209463	0.266667	13.6811
Brunei	Dollar	0.495699	0.631074	32.3766
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021031	0.026774	1.3736
UAE	Dirham	0.213865	0.272272	13.9686
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.273100	65.3151
Argentina	Peso	0.256066	0.325998	16.7250
Brazil	Real	0.364257	0.463736	23.7915
Denmark	Kroner	0.134063	0.170675	8.7563
India	Rupee	0.016896	0.021510	1.1035
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213854	0.272257	13.9679
Mexico	New Peso	0.072700	0.092554	4.7484
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498942	0.635203	32.5885
Norway	Kroner	0.125450	0.159711	8.1938
South Africa	Rand	0.116110	0.147820	7.5838
Korea	Won	0.000817	0.001040	0.0534
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024091	0.030670	1.5735

Stocks end lower

From page B1

"We are also keeping a wary eye on the U.S. market, and whether the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) will see support at 11,000," he added.

The DJIA fell 36.34 points to 11,088.03.

Trades in Banco de Oro accounted for 73 percent of total value turnover. The stock closed steady at P32.50 on volume of 60.1 million shares.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was down P10 at P2,015 but conglomerate Ayala Corp. rose P5 to P415.

Food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. A-shares fell 50 centavos to P64.50 and its B-shares were unchanged at P74.50. *AFP*

Federal Land's Marquinton Residences rising fast

FEDERAL LAND BRINGS A HIGHER state of urban living in Marikina with Marquinton Residences - the first to introduce condominium living in the city. The 20-hectare development features a cluster of mid-rise condominiums and commercial spaces, with 60 percent of the of the land area devoted to greenery and open space. The rising community remarkably boosts Marikina's fast emergence as one of the country's most progressive cities.

True to Federal Land's signature of a timely delivery, the development of Marquinton is proceeding efficiently and has been consistently a month ahead of schedule. The first tower called Barcelona, named after one of Spain's famous cities, celebrated its structural completion early this year. The second floor is now open for viewing to interested buyers who want to see the actual finishes of the building. All the architectural finishes of Barcelona Tower are expected to be complete and ready for residents to move in their much-awaited homes by the end of 2006.

The second cluster, Alicante Tower, will also mark its structural completion this July. This is another noteworthy feat since it shows that project construction was completed in just seven months after it first broke ground. Expected turnover for Alicante Tower is on the first quarter of 2007.

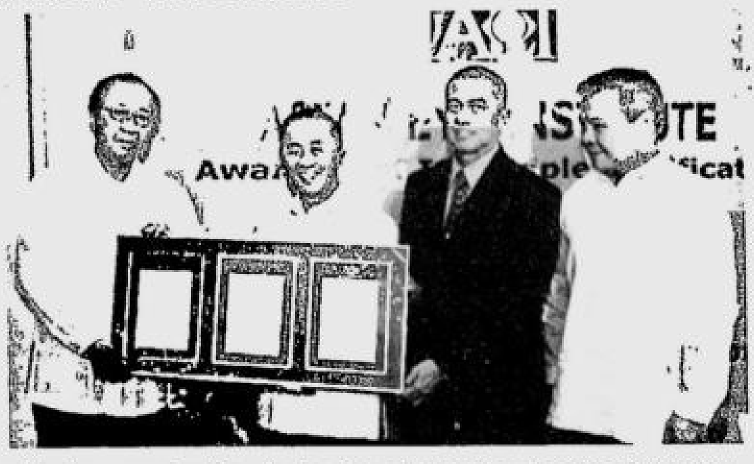
Aside from the prestige of living in the first condominium in Marikina, residents can also look forward to the luxuries that Marquinton Residences offers. The various recreational and health facilities include a resort-type swimming pool, clubhouse, multi-purpose function room, outdoor children's playground, gym, basketball and tennis courts, courtyard garden and pond, picnic area, and bicycle lanes.

A more convenient and idyllic life is another benefit of living in a complete community like Marquinton. Situated beside the residential towers is the Blue Wave Mall - a commercial center featuring four top grade cinemas, first-class dining options, and diverse mix of retailers including Robinsons Supermarket. Marquinton's close proximity to first-rate medical facilities, banks, schools, and public transport also assures its residents that they need not go far for their needs.

Federal Land, property arm of the Metrobank Group of companies, is fully committed to delivering only the best to its customers, Federal Land's acclaimed portfolio has earned the company a well-deserved reputation for excellence - gaining the trust of their clients and respect of the industry.

For more information on Marquinton Residences, simply contact 681-0111. Model units are available for viewing at Sumulong Hi-way corner Fernando Avenue (Next to Toyota Showroom) For further details on Federal Land and its projects, log on to www.federalland.com.ph, or e-mail inquiry@federalland.com.ph.

AEI GIVEN SPECIAL WORLD-CLASS STATUS



Eye care patients in the Philippines and neighboring countries have another reason to celebrate and look forward to the best eye care service. Asian Eye Institute (AEI), the leading eye care center in the Philippines, has received a Triple Certification for Quality Standards, namely ISO 9001:2000; ISO 14001:2004; and OHSAS 18001:1999. AEI is the first ambulatory health care facility to receive this honor. The triple certification recognizes the seamless, and exceptional, delivery of service through AEI's processes that are integrated and embedded in the operations of the entire organization. And to further improve its services, AEI has launched two new initiatives: the Six Sigma and Investing in People. These will complement the clinic's triple certification in excellent health care service delivery. Photo shows Dr. Felipe I. Tolentino, AEI president and medical director, Oscar M. Lopez, chair of the Lopez Group of Companies, and Dr. Juan Ma. Pablo Nañagas, AEI administrator and assistant medical director proudly accepting the honor from certification international's managing Director Renato V. Navarrete.

Emperador advocacy campaign

"ALONG WITH SUCCESS COMES A REPUTATION for wisdom" - Euripides, an ancient Greek playwright once said. In our world today, one cannot simply rely on pure talent in order to be successful. You must be equipped with the right tools, such as education and wisdom and of course the knowledge on how to use these to your advantage.

Wisdom is the knowledge one gains through experience and constant exposure to anything in particular. Success, on the other hand, would simply be the attainment of a goal or an objective. So where does education fit in the picture? Education of course has a lot to do with success, whatever it is you are aiming for. Whether it's sports, the world of business or politics, one must be highly educated in his or her particular field to be able to succeed and rise above the rest.

It's nice to know that there are still those who give great importance and value to education in such a time where studying is quickly diminishing into something people think is optional. Emperador Brandy is one such company. Built on hard work, perseverance and responsibility, Emperador Brandy has already proven that success is really within anyone's reach. It just depends on how much of it you want and how bad you want it.

Emperador Brandy hopes to uplift the status of education in the country through its advocacy campaign, "Susi ng Tagumpay", a quote-writing contest focusing on success. Open to all students ages 18 years old and above, "Susi ng Tagumpay" is aiming to get as many students to enter their original quotes on success consequently making these members of the academe reflect on their own goals and ambitions in life. Emperador Brandy is giving away P10,000 educational allowance to a hundred winners, enough to cover various school expenses. Emperador Brandy understands that although the price of education is steadily increasing, students must be given equal chances to succeed despite the effects of tuition increase. What's more is that a highly reputable panel of judges will appraise all entered quotes, hopefully making all students push themselves, uplifting the standards and status of education in their own way.

For more information on the "Susi ng Tagumpay" Advocacy Campaign and its guidelines, please visit www.emperadorbrandy.com, because after all, the first step to success is finding out what you have to do and doing it.

CFBCI, DTI UNVEIL SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISE CENTER

The Chinese Filipino Business Club Inc (CFBCI) in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) had unveiled its Small Medium Enterprise (SME) Center at it's Office in Sky 1 Tower in Binondo, Manila. The first ever privately run SME Center in Metro Manila will serve as a one stop shop for business inquiries. Shown are (standing from left) Steven Ching, CFBCI SME chair; Lao Giok Chao; Tomas Ang; Lino Uy; CFBCI president George S. Lee; DTI SME Director Rhodora Leano; DTI Usec Zorayda Alonzo; Manila First Lady Evelina Atienza; CFBCI honorary president Rufino Kopio; CFBCI president emeritus AW Peng Lam; CFBCI vice-president Cristino Lim; CFBCI director Joseph Co; Johnny Lee and Robert Que.

CARITAS MANILA BENEFITS ANEW FROM MAYBANK

caritas manila

MaybanKalinga is an annual donation drive participated in by the officers and staff of Maybank Philippines. Since it's launching in 2002, the children of Caritas Manila have always been the program's principal beneficiary. Recently, Maybank Philippines turned over crates of toys, school bags, baby's clothes, children's books, shoes and used clothing to Caritas Manila executive director Rev. Fr. Anton Pascual (2nd from left) for proper disposition. Also handed over was a gallon-sized plastic coin bank, savings of the five-year-old daughter of a Maybank officer who wanted to share what she had with children in need. Joining Fr. Anton during the simple turnover ceremony is Caritas resource mobilization officer Shiela Conti (far left), VP Zeny Amigo, head of the project management office (2nd from right), stood in for Maybank and assisted by PR/branding officer Deng Castro.

Fortified wellness drinks

THE FORTIFICATION OR enrichment of foods commonly consumed by children such as beverages is an economical way of supplying the vitamins and minerals and other functionally beneficial ingredients that may be lacking in the diet of children. The so-called strategy of micronutrient fortification allows the addition of micronutrients at safe measured amounts to commonly consumed foods without changing dietary habits and patterns. The strategy has actually been scientifically tested in many parts of the world, including the Philippines.

Based on the proven benefits of fortified foods, the Department of Health encourages the consumption of food products that have been fortified with vitamins and minerals through the "Sangkap Pinoy Seal" program. The program awards a seal of approval called "Sangkap Pinoy Seal", to products such as Jus'4 Kids I.Q. Tonic Mango Fruit Drink and Jus'4 Kids Zzooom! Orange Fruit Drink, which delivers additional vitamins and minerals in amounts that, satisfies the standards set. The Seal is the guarantee of the DOH that the product is properly fortified. The objective is to eliminate micronutrient deficiencies common in Filipino children through the intake of favorite foods that have been enriched with vitamins and minerals commonly lacking in the Filipino diet. More than that, the regular intake of fortified foods such as Jus'4 Kids Mango Fruit Drink and Jus'4 Kids Orange Fruit Drink, would help promote the optimum physical and mental growth and development of happy and well-nourished children.

MANILABANK OPENS CORINTHIAN HILLS BRANCH

Manilabank recently inaugurated its newest branch office located at The Clubhouse, Corinthian Hills, Temple Drive, Brgy. Ugong Norte in Quezon City. Leading the ribbon cutting ceremony to formally open the branch to the public are Andrew Tan, Rep. Mat Defensor and Sec. Alberto Romulo witnessed by Msgr. Daniel Sta. Maria, Parish Priest of Christ The King Church and Corinthian Hills Branch manager Rian Gloria.

MMCM OPENS BRANCH IN NASUGBU

Metropolitan Medical Center, Manila branches out in Nasugbu, Batangas along the sprawling Chateau Royale Sports & Country Club that also faces the Evercrest Golf Club & Resort. Photo shows during the blessing (from left) Dr. Kim Shi Tan, medical director of Metropolitan Medical Center, Rep. Eileen Ermita Buhain of Batangas, Monsignor Fred Madlangbayan of the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Governor Armando Sanchez of Batangas, Mayor Antonio Barcelon of Nasugbu, Jose Go and Joel Go, president of Metropolitan Medical Center. After the formal opening a medical mission was conducted by the Metropolitan Center Manila-Nasugbu and the Go Tong Foundation for the less fortunate of the province.

REP DE VENECIA VISITS HAIER

The Speaker of the House, Jose de Venecia, together with top business and political delegates from the Philippines, recently visited China to foster and further strengthen Philippine and China Economic Partnership. The invitation was made by Wu Bangguo, member of the standing committee of Political Bureau of Central Committee of CPC and the Chairman of the National People's Congress. Part of their leg tour and agenda which started from Beijing was a visit to the corporate giant Haier Group in Qindao which included a meeting with Haier president, Yang Mian Mian who then awarded Speaker Jose de Venecia a token of appreciation for his visit. Standing beside the speaker is George U. Lim, chair and CEO of Continental Sales Inc (CSI) who was responsible for making the arrangement for the visit of the speaker to Haier Group. Haier is the biggest manufacturer of white lines appliances in China and ranked number one in product sales in China, top three in the world and proudly, the biggest business partner of Continental Sales Inc (CSI), Haier's exclusive distributor in the Philippines for almost 10 years now.

DLS MBA-JD students off to Europe

THREE 4TH YEAR STUDENTS from the Master of Business Administration-Juris Doctor (MBA-JD) Program of De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business (DLSPS GSB) and Far Eastern University Institute of Law (FEU-IL) recently made their way to Europe to gain more in-depth knowledge on international law as part of their study abroad courses.

Barney Almazar, Pearl Cabali and Marlon Cariño are currently at the Robert Schuman University in Strasbourg, France taking courses in the European Union Legal System and the European Convention on Human Rights. From France, they are scheduled to spend another week at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of London University, and another two weeks at the University of Zagreb School of Law in Dubrovnik, Croatia to cap off their studies.

The "Study Abroad" program is an innovative feature of the MBA-JD program, which provides opportunities for students to study foreign laws and interact with foreign students. Last year, 10 MBA-JD students spent six weeks in Florence, Italy taking courses in International Negotiation and International Intellectual Property.

The MBA-JD dual-degree program is the first of its kind the in the country that combines a management orientation with the legal and analytical tools needed to understand how law affects business and management decisions. With two respected educational institutions joining forces for this innovative program - DLSPS GSB handling management education and FEU-IL providing legal education - the MBA-JD dual-degree program maximizes the synergy between the two interrelated fields. It prepares students to approach problems from the perspectives of both a business executive and a corporate lawyer.

For more information on the MBA-JD dual-degree program, please contact DLSPS GSB vice-dean Tristan H. Macapanpan at 753-4618 and e-mail macapanpant@dlsu.edu.ph, or FEU-IL dean Andres D. Bautista at 848-7179 and e-mail abautista@feu.edu.ph.

ProductFILES

Protect your brain from stress

Memory
TABLET
500mg

IN TODAY'S FAST-PACED, HIGHLY competitive world, it's not only your body that gets a beating, but your mind as well. Severe stress, rigorous mental activities, aside from the natural process of aging, bring about brain fatigue and deterioration. Your best line of defense against damage of the brain/nerve cells is a health regimen of proper diet, adequate sleep and relaxation, and a daily supplement specifically formulated to protect brain cells such as Memory Tablet. Five potent brain-phytonutrients including Centella asiatica, Bacopa monniera, lecithin, leaf ginseng and green tea are contained in every Memory Tablet, allowing you to get full benefits and ensure that your brain/nerve cells are continuously nourished for the best possible functioning. Memory Tablets are available in all Mercury Drug and Watsons outlets.

Kamayan celebrates regional specialties

EVERY REGION IN THE PHILIPpines prides itself in its culinary specialties. Kamayan's Lutuing Atin Festival celebrates each province's own beloved fare. From Appari to Jolo, explore the country's varied traditional recipes and new spins on native specialties. Buffet price is at P290. For inquiries and reservations call 532-3004 or 531-7292.

How do you like your crust?

THICK CRUST LOVERS WILL SURELY DELIGHT in Greenwich Primo Fully Loaded or Pepperoni Overload guaranteed to have you wanting for more. For thin crust lovers, Greenwich presents its Crunchy Crust pizza lineup that offers 6 delectable variants namely Greenwich Special, Pepperoni, Garden Fresh, Hawaiian, Ham and Cheese and Mozzarella Garlic to please your passion for pizza, thin crust style. For Metro Manila residents just dial 819-4000 and Greenwich's Siguradong On Time delivery service will make sure that your orders are delivered fresh and on the dot. Provincial residents on the other hand, simply have to dial the Greenwich delivery hotline in their respective area.

4Life Research to launch 2 new products in the Philippines

4LIFE RESEARCH PHILIPPINES LLC, A SCIENCE COMPANY THAT PROVIDES opportunities to as many people as possible will launch two new more products that will be added up in the "4Life Research transfer factor family". These two products are Belle Vie and Enummi. The product launching and recognition of 4Life Research Philippines' leaders will be graced by Steve Apple, vice president international and Michael Seet, regional director Southeast Asia and Taiwan, no less, on Saturday, Aug. 19, at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Isla Ballroom 2. Registration starts at 1 p.m. Furthermore, 4Life Research Philippines LLC conducts free seminars about transfer factor products and its tremendous benefits to our health and immune system, as well as business opportunity meetings for those who would like to start up their home business every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 4Life Research Philippines, LLC, 8th Floor San Miguel Properties Centre, No. 7 Saint Francis Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Interested parties may call 631-LIFE (631-5433) locals 31110, 31111, 31112 and 31113 from 12 p.m. till 9 p.m. You may also send SMS to 0918 - 84LIFE0 (0918-845-4330) or e-mail phillipines@4life.com or visit www.4life.com.

Nikkei at 2-1/2-mo high; other markets cheered by earnings news

SINGAPORE—TOKYO'S NIKKEI jumped to a two-and-a-half-month high on Monday due to Japan's good economic outlook, and the prospect of strong earnings lifted other stocks across Asia as easing supply fears sent crude oil lower.

The dollar held on to last week's gains after strong retail sales data soothed worries about US growth. Dollar strength pushed gold down towards the two-week low it reached on Friday.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average rose 1.5 percent in the morning session, led higher by a strong Osaka futures market.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng climbed 0.1 percent, Seoul was up 0.8 percent and MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian shares was up 1.3 percent yesterday afternoon.

"Good earnings results are helping some shares, but overall, the market does not have a lot of momentum," said Park Suk-hyun, an analyst at Kyobo Securities in Seoul.

In Seoul, results were also a big theme. Refiner S-Oil and world number-one shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy firmed 1.8 and 1.4 percent respectively after results, but steel maker POSCO dropped 1.1 percent after a report it was struggling to cover short nickel positions on the London Metal Exchange. POSCO denied the report.

Singapore's Straits Times rose 0.4 percent, Taiwan's benchmark index was up 0.7 percent, and South Korea's KOSPI was 0.6 percent ahead.

US stocks closed lower on Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 0.3 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index 0.7 percent.

The dollar was steady, keeping most of the gains it made last week, after surprisingly strong US retail sales data stoked expectations that the Federal Reserve could resume bumping up interest rates.

In early Tokyo trade, the euro edged up to $1.2748 from around $1.2720 in late US trade on Friday, when it fell around 0.5 percent. The dollar was a touch weaker at 116.25 yen after it rose nearly 1 percent on Friday. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications herein referred to as the "Employer" invites Application for Eligibility and to Bid from contractor/s for the Construction of 4.392 km (4-lanes) Access Road which is one of the components of the Laguindingan Airport Development. The main works included among others are, as follows:

a. Clearing and Grubbing (262,500 sq.m.)
b. Soil Excavation & Hauling (3,951 cu.m.)
c. Limestone Excavation & Hauling (114,326 cu.m.)
d. Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (68,092 sq.m.)

The Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid is **Php 188,768,270.74**.

The Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures holding a PCAB license of General Engineering Large A for Airports and Highways and not barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation. In case of Joint Venture, the lead firm and member partners must satisfy the requirements of jointly and severally liable provision for any and all obligations, which the joint venture may incur. All particulars relative to the Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bidding Conference(s) shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The request for Eligibility Screening (RES Form 1) may be obtained from the PBAC Secretariat, Office of the PBAC Chairman for Foreign Assisted Air Transportation Sector Projects, Unit 61, 6th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City from August 16 - 21, 2006, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM upon payment at DOTC Cashier of non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00). Interested bidders shall submit their duly accomplished RES Form 1 and attachments and bring the original copy of the updated PCAB/IAC License and Letter of Intent to the same office not later than 2:00 PM on August 28, 2006.

Eligible applicants shall be notified through a Letter of Eligibility from the PBAC office. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by eligible applicants from the above office after receipt of the Letter of Eligibility and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00) from 13 - 20 September 2006.

Bids must be delivered to the address given below on or before 2:00 p.m. of October 23, 2006. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

Office of the PBAC Chairman for
Foreign-Assisted Air Transportation and Communications
Unit 61, 6th Floor, The Columbia Tower Bldg.
Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the government and does not guarantee that an award will be made as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **ROBERT R. CASTAÑARES**
Assistant Secretary and PBAC Chairman
Foreign Assisted Air Transportation Projects

(PDI--August 9 & 15, 2006)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date August 10, 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction of Permanent Steel Pole Structure at C5 Section of the Sucat-Araneta 230 kV Transmission Line (Sp06.SATL.Lc-0072)

Erection and Construction of the Permanent Steel Pole Structure and Dismantling of Existing Woods Poles at C5 Section of the Sucat-Araneta 230 kV Transmission Line.

The Project is located along C5 Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Island of Luzon.

1 **The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing board**, intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Pesos P9,205,640.00** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Construction of Permanent Steel Pole Structure at C5 Section of the Sucat-Araneta 230 kV Transmission Line (Sp06.SATL.Lc-0072)** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

2. **The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility **for furnishing labor, materials, equipment (except materials specified to be furnished by TransCo) supplies and tools to complete the stringing works of the Project.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before date and time stated below at the address given below and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of non-refundable fee stated below Applications for eligibility will be evaluated using a non discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents stated below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. The read PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:

License Particular — **at least Category "C and/or D" - Sp. Electrical Works**
Registration Particular — **at least "Small B" - Electrical Works**

3. Bidding will be conducted through public bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contact will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BCMD at the address given below.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee stated below. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting from the schedule specified below

6. TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on the schedule specified below

7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the schedule of submission and opening specified below. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted

8. The Contractor shall complete the works within **One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar days** counted from the effective date stated in the Notice to Proceed

9. **TransCo** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

	Activity	Date	Venue
a	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting August 14, 2006, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
b	Submission & Opening of Eligibility Documents	August 31, 2006, 1:30 PM	BCMD office address below
c	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting September 15, 2006, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
d	Pre-bid Conference	September 21, 2006, 1:30 PM	BCMD office address below
e	Bid Submission & Opening	September 29, 2006, 9:00 AM	BCMD office address below

Cost of Eligibility Documents per copy		P 600.00
Cost of Bidding Documents per copy		P 5,000.00

The address of the BAC Secretariat is:

MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, **Bids and Contracts Management Department**
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building,
National Transmission Corporation
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City 1104
Telephone Nos. 981-2308, 981-2212, 981-2213
Facsimile No. 921-2308
Email Address jmilagan@transco.ph
Website Address www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - August 15 & 23, 2006)

Crude oil prices down in Asia

Ceasefire sparks hope of end to bloodshed

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES DECLINED IN Asia hours after a UN-brokered truce and the eventual deployment of an international force in Lebanon sparked hopes of an end to the bloodshed, dealers said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert ordered his country's military to halt fighting late Sunday, six hours ahead of the deadline agreed with the UN, the Haaretz daily said on its English website.

Olmert met Sunday evening with Defense Minister Amir Peretz and senior military leaders, and gave the order to begin respecting early the cessation of hostilities called for in UN Security Council resolution 1701 adopted on Friday unless fired upon, the newspaper said.

Yesterday morning, New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in September, was at $73.70 dollars, down 65 cents from its close of $74.35 in the United States on Friday.

Brent North Sea crude for September delivery was down 54 cents to $75.09.

"The announcement of the truce in Lebanon is the main story overnight," said Tony Nunan, manager for energy risk management at Mitsubishi Corp in Tokyo.

The UN Security Council over the weekend passed 1701 which called for a truce, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon after an end to the fighting and the deployment of a 15,000-strong international peacekeeping force to prevent further conflict.

While prices fell in an immediate reaction to the truce, Nunan said the market will continue to monitor how the agreement will be implemented on the ground.

"I think people will still want to wait and see how the truce goes. Implementing the truce is quite problematic... it's going to be quite difficult," Nunan said.

Prices are expected to find support at between $70-$72 a barrel, and $80-oil is off "for the time being," he added.

Nunan said the next issue for the market is whether Iran will comply with a UN Security Council resolution to halt its uranium enrichment and other sensitive nuclear fuel work by August 31 or face the prospect of sanctions.

Iran, OPEC's second largest oil exporter, insists it wants to enrich uranium only to make reactor fuel for power stations but the West suspect Tehran wants the capacity to make weapons-grade uranium.

Other factors that helped drive prices lower is the foiling last week of an alleged terror plot to blow up passenger planes flying from Britain to the United States and UK energy giant BP's announcement it will not completely shut down a major oilfield in Alaska.

BP said late Friday it would continue to pump oil from part of the giant Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska while it carries out repair for a corroded pipeline.

Prices had shot up last week after BP said it may have to completely shut down operations, affecting 400,000 barrels of oil per day, or 8.0 percent of total daily US output.

But BP officials now say the shutdown will be partial and the field can continue to produce up to 200,000 barrels of oil a day. *AFP*

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION (CRD)

1. **COMPUTER OPERATOR III** - Item No. OMBA-COMPO3-13-2003; SG 12
   Education: Completion of two years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional) / Data Encoder (MC 11,S.96-Cat.I) First Level Eligibility
2. **RECORDS OFFICER I** - Item No. OMBA-RO1-3-1998; SG 11
   Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility
3. **PROCESS SERVER** - Item No. OMBA-PROCS-2-1998; SG 5
   Education: High School Graduate; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: None Required (MC11, s. 96-Cat.III)

Applicants should submit within ten (10) calendar days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1"x1" picture (colored)
4) *Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) *Transcript of Records;
6) *Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) *Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) *Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

* Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

German Q2 growth best in over 5 years

BERLIN—THE GERMAN ECONOMY grew by a faster-than-expected 0.9 percent quarter-on-quarter in the April-June period, the fastest rate in over five years, official data showed on Monday.

The Federal Statistics Office also revised up first quarter growth to 0.7 percent from 0.4 percent. The second quarter figure exceeded the mid-range forecast of economists polled by Reuters for an expansion of 0.8 percent.

"The strong growth data provide tailwind for the ECB. A rate hike at the council meeting in early October is now very, very likely," said HVB Group economist Kornelius Purps.

The reading, the strongest since the first quarter of 2001, set the seal on a strong upswing across much of the euro zone.

The French economy expanded by 1.1-1.2 percent in the second quarter, more than double the growth rate in the first quarter.

"While the vitality of foreign trade weakened, investment in construction and equipment above all contributed to the economic upturn in the second quarter," Germany's Statistics Office said in a statement.

The economy grew by 1 percent year-on-year in the second quarter, after expanding by an upwardly revised 3.1 percent in the first quarter. The Office had previously reported first quarter year-on-year growth of 2.9 percent.

Other recent reports on the German economy have been mixed.

Unemployment fell much more than expected in July, boosting hopes for a pick-up in consumer spending. But the trade surplus narrowed and industrial output fell in June, raising concerns the recovery may have peaked after a strong second quarter.

Leading German companies have been upbeat.

Of the 30 companies listed in the DAX index, nine raised their full-year earnings forecasts when reporting results for the quarter to end-June, compared with three firms who downgraded their forecasts. One of the 30 companies, E.ON, has yet to report. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bohol
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MIGUEL
Office of the Treasurer
(Telefax No. (038)-5203016)

To : ______________
____

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals, plainly marked "Proposals for supplying materials to the government" subjected to the terms and conditions set forth at the back hereof, will be received at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on August 21, 2006, publicly opened in the presence of the members of the Committee on Awards or their authorized representatives.

PURPOSE: Purchase of 1-Unit Four Wheel Drive Agricultural Tractor

Item No.	Qty.	Unit	Description of Supplies / Materials	Unit Cost	Cost
1	1	unit	**Four Wheel Drive Agricultural Tractor (Brand New)** **Specifications** **Engine** Water cooled, 4 stroke cycle diesel engine, 4 cylinder 3,900 cc to 5,000 cc Piston Displacement **Transmission** : Synchromesh / Constant mesh / Sliding Spur w/ a minimum of 8 forward 8 reverse no. of speeds **Clutch & Steering** : Dry or Wet / Single or Multi, Non-Asbestos, Hydrostatic power steering. **Brakes** Mechanical or Hydraulic **Implementing Lifting System & Drawer:** Draft & position control combination / response / mixed control function system with a minimum lifting capacity @ 3 pt. hitch at lift of 2,200 kg. & a swinging drawbar **PTO & Differential Lock** : Independent PTO & Differential Locking System equipped at least for rear wheels. **Fuel Tank** : 70 ltrs. or more fuel tank capacity **Dimensions**: Minimum ground clearance not less than 350 mm. but not more than 485 mm from the front axle gear case drive & a turning radius @ least 4.3 mtrs. with brake **Tire Size & Seat** Manufacturer's standard size tire, all terrain type drive seat position (Height, Weight) adjustable suspension seat, seat cover material should not crack. **Instrument** Should be equipped with operator's cab / canopy, hour meter, tachometer, fuel gauge, temperature gauge, warning lights, (side flasher lights) pilot lamp head lights, tail lights, turn signal indicator, back-up light, working light, trailer electrical outlet, horn, reflector, side mirror, instrument display & safety starter as safety precaution, front end & rear wheel weights. **Accessories** Toolbox, manufacturer's standard workshop & maintenance toolkit. **Spare Parts** The supplier should provide a part list of past wearing parts, parts should be available for the useful life of the machinery. **Training** The supplier should be able to provide training to end user, the training shall include the tractor operation, maintenance & repair & tractor implement interaction. **Warranty** One year warranty against manufacturer's defect including spare parts of main components		

Municipality of San Miguel Bohol, 2006
Place of Delivery : San Miguel Municipal Hall
Time of Delivery : __________ (working days from the receipt of the P.O.)
Deposit (Surety of Cash): __________ 5% of the total cost of materials

I hereby certify that the above articles are actually carried in stock by me. The terms and conditions specified above and at the back hereof are hereby accepted. The quantities shown at: prices as quoted are hereby offered.

Name of Bidder
(Print Name below Signature)
Nationality
Address

(Sgd.) **TRINIDAD R. MILLARE**
Municipal Treasurer

Approved:
(Sgd.) **SILVINO C. EVANGELISTA**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI - August 15, 2006)

China moves to cool economy

BEIJING—CHINA HAS CALLED ON ITS 31 provinces to rein in their economies, state media said Sunday, in a sign the central government has yet to persuade local bureaucrats that red-hot growth is bad.

Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan emphasized that investment in factories, residential buildings and other fixed assets must be cooled down, according to the Xinhua news agency.

"The central government has made explicit requirements on economic work in the second half," Zeng said during a recent trip to the southwestern province of Yunnan.

China's economy, the world's fourth largest, expanded by 10.9 percent year-on-year in the first six months of 2006, boosted by massive investment.

Significantly, Xinhua said 90 percent of all investment in the first half had been approved by governments at provincial level or below, reflecting different agendas in Beijing and elsewhere in the vast country.

Whereas the central government is concerned about macro-issues such as inflation and other symptoms of overheating, local governments prioritize growth because it means more jobs and less risk of social unrest.

Beijing may have awesome formal powers but its actual clout over decisions made hundreds of kilometers away is limited. In reality local officials are frequently calling the shots, according to observers.

In the complex game between Beijing and the provinces, the provincial players have important tactical advantages, according to Xie.

The economies in three quarters of China's provinces expanded at 12 percent or more in the first six months, above the national figure of 10.9 percent, the country's key economic planner said in a report last week. *AFP*

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A specialized workhop in BMW cars has two vacancies:

I-Mechanic & I-Electrician

Candidates are highly preferred to have experience in "GT1" or at least in "Model."

Accepted candidates will have:

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4– Bonus and/or commission (for active employee and team leaders)

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Email add: crueldenniseann@yahoo.com
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Address: CRUEL NET CAFÉ
1234 E. Jacinto St. Guadalupe, Makati City

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
METRO MANILA

A Century of bringing the Filipinos closer together through better transportation and communications

IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE UPWARD ADJUSTMENT OF FUEL SURCHARGE ON PASSENGER TICKETS FOR INTERNATIONAL ROUTE

EMIRATES,
Petitioner.

CAB CASE NO. 28210

x -- x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that **EMIRATES** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board a petition for authority to impose upward adjustment of fuel surcharge on passenger tickets for international route (Dubai-Manila) from USD40.00 or USD80.00 roundtrip to USD65.00 or USD130.00 roundtrip. The above entitled case is scheduled for hearing on **23 August 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at the CAB Conference Room, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the petitioner shall present evidence.

The petitioner is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once, at least ten (10) days before the scheduled hearing in a newspaper of general circulation.

Let a copy of this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

10 August 2006
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) **MA. ELBEN SL. MORO**
Hearing Officer

cc: **ATTY. CATHERINE U. LEE**
Counsel for the Petitioner
PUNO AND PUNO
12th Floor, East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
ATTY. MA. CLARA C. DE CASTRO
PAL Legal Affairs Department
10th Floor, PAL Center
Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
ATTY RAYMUND JAY GOMEZ
Counsel for Cebu Pacific Air
Airline Operations Center
Domestic Road, Pasay City
ATTY. JONATHAN ANDREW D. LIM
Legal Department
Air Philippines Corporation
APC Gate 1, Andrews Ave., Pasay City
MR. BUTCH RODRIGUEZ
Vice President, Commercial Group
Asian Spirit, Inc.
Domestic Airport, Pasay City

(PDI--Aug. 15, 2006)

More Classifieds on Page B6

Municipality of San Miguel, Province of Bohol
Transco
Office of the Ombudsman
Department of Transportation and Communications

An international company with a regional office in Cebu is seeking to fill the following positions:

AREA SALES MANAGER

An exciting opportunity for an Area Sales Manager to work with International Watch and Jewelry brands in the duty free field.

The Role

- To win new business and utilize effective account management skills to maximize sales with our current customers in Asia.
- This is a demanding role that will suit a determined and ambitious individual who will report to, and work closely with, the DF Business Development Director.

The Requirements

- Ability to develop various market and sales strategies
- Strong interpersonal and customer relation skills
- Minimum of 3 years sales management experience
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills; Computer literate

BUSINESS INFORMATION ANALYST

We have an exciting opportunity for a Business Information Analyst. This position will provide sales information to our network of Account Managers.

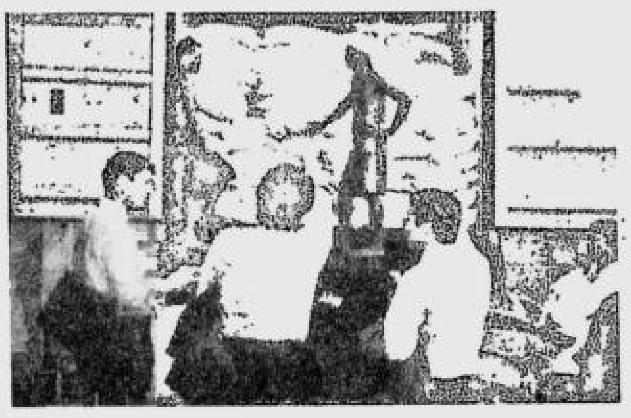
Your skills and qualifications will ideally include:

- 2/3 years experience of working with numerical data, ideally gained within a Sales Support environment
- Excellent numerical analysis skills

Interested candidates should send in their CVs to:

recruitment.ph2006@gmail.com or to **The Manager, GPO Box 191 CEBU CITY 6000**

JAPANESE RICE DONORS VISIT NFA WAREHOUSE



Representatives of the Japanese government are shown inspecting part of the rice donation from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries being unloaded at the National Food Authority warehouse in Quezon City recently. The group headed by Eiichi Miyajima of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) (3rd from right) were in the country to prepare the rice donations for distribution through the NFA and DSWD. Others in photo are, from left, Nariman Tashiro of Nippon Express and Sotaro Tabata of Marubeni. The Japanese government is donating 19,049 bags of rice drawn from the food security stocks of the EAERR for relief and rehabilitation activities in calamity affected areas. The Philippines has been chosen as recipient of the rice grant since it is prone to typhoons, floods, earthquakes and other calamities.

OBITUARIES

Pablo "Boy" Anzures, Jr.

(October 6, 1929 - August 7, 2006)

The eldest son of **Dr. Pablo M. Anzures** (†) and **Urbana Domingo Anzures** (†); beloved brother to **Josefina Swartley**, **Celia Riddle**, **Leticia Halili**, **Benjamin Anzures**, **Cristina Castañeda**, and **Carmelito Anzures**; and brother-in-law to **Russell Swartley** (†), **Charlie Riddle**, **Bernardo Halili**, **Flordeliz Burgos**, **Cesar Castañeda**, and **Emma Mercado**, *went peacefully with the Lord on August 7, 2006.*

They, together with his nephews and nieces, and all his other relatives request your prayers for his eternal rest and everlasting peace.

"We have loved him during his life. Let us not forget him in his death."
- St. Ambrose

His remains will lie in state starting August 16, 2006, Wednesday, at the Mt. Carmel Shrine, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City, and will be interred at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, on August 18, 2006, Friday, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Ernesto Eric Aguirre Casareo, Jr.

October 9, 1969 - July 6, 2006

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all relatives, friends, and all those who visited and kept vigil, offered Masses and prayers, sent condolences, and flowers, joined the funeral rites and who, in countless ways, helped and comforted us in our moment of grief.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life.
He who believes in Me will live
even though he dies, and whoever
believes in Me will never die."
- John 11: 25-26

FRANCISCA MARIETA C. LICUD

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on 13 August 2006 at the age of 91.

Her bereaved family: Husband – **Agustin**(+); children – **Nilo & Nati Aventura**, **Mars & Babs Morales**, **Boy & Zeny Licud**, **Manny & Perla Licud**, and **Gary & Belle Sabares**; grandchildren – **Jun & Emily**, **Arnold & Mato**, **Diana**, **Carol**, **Peter**, **Mark**, **Alex & Donna**, **Mike & Sheryl**, **JR & Janice**, **Michael**, **Sarah**, **Tricia** and **Arthur**; great grandchildren – **Annika**, **Enzo**, **André**, **Megan**, **Maxine**, **Abigail**, **Miguel** and **Anton**, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment will be on Thursday, 17 August 2006 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 10:00 AM Mass at Funeraria Paz.

"And… I will dwell in the
House of the Lord… Forever."
- Psalm 23

In Loving Memory on the Third (3rd) Death Anniversary of

LILIA DABLO FARIN-VITUG

who died August 15, 2003
The family requests relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

IDA MAY F. BAGASAO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 13, 2006 at the age of 55.

Her bereaved family: parents **Agustin C. Bagasao** (†) and **Francisca F. Bagasao** (†); brothers **Ding**, **Tito** & **Vicky**; sister **Fides**; sisters-in-law **Bai**, **Lolet** & **Helen**; nephews, **Bogey** & **Miguel**; nieces **Gabbie**, **Ana** & **Jill**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Chapel of the Risen Lord, Capitol Park Homes Subd., QC until 16 August 2006. Her body will then be moved to the family residence in Cabanatuan, N. Ecija. Interment will be on 19 August 2006, morning at the Sagrada Familia Memorial Park.

COL. BONO JM LUISTRO, PAF (Ret.)

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 11, 2006 at the age of 86.

He is survived by his wife **Nena**; children and children-in-law **Barrie** and **Boy Castellano**, **Bert** and **Minda Luistro**, **Owen** and **Marvis Luistro**, **Luchiee** and **Francis Yamamoto**, **Lee** and **Emer Luistro**.

His remains lie in state at PAF Mortuary, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

Cremation will be today, August 15, 2006 at 12 noon at the Loyola Chapels & Crematorium. Interment will be tomorrow, August 16, 2006 at Lipa Cathedral, Lipa City, Batangas.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

BUSINESS

Hong Kong taipan favors multilateral over bilateral agreements

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

LAPULAPU CITY—A HONG KONG business leader is pushing for the return of world trade to multilateralism.

"Multilaterialism is an ideal that has served all of us well. The way economics in the real world is developing, multilateralism has to be only way forward," said Li & Fung chairman Dr. Victor K. Fung.

Fung spoke Saturday during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Advisory Council (Abac) meeting held at Shangri-la's Mactan Island Resort here.

He cited the proliferation of bilateral trade agreements in the Asia Pacific and other regions due to the breakdown of the WTO trade talks.

"What few people realize is that bilateral agreements have very troublesome consequences for the global production system," Fung said.

Bilateralism throws up barriers, creates friction, reduces flexibility, raises prices and hinders the ability of companies to get new countries involved in the global production, he said.

Fung said each new bilateral agreement would make doing business more complex.

"Even larger companies have a hard time keeping track. For small firms, it is impossible," he said.

According to Fung, there was a need for a single, over-arching framework for trade so that the future world trading regime would mirror economic reality and allow the use of modern business strategies.

He also maintained that bilateral agreements were not a substitute for true multilateralism

"I believe that the multilateral approach to trade regulation is the only way to ensure its continued health and to promote global prosperity," Fung said.

He noted that the multilateral world trade system would help address the range of issues such as market access, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, trade in services and trade facilitation.

"Multilateral solutions will help us optimize the efficiency of the complex cross-border flows generated by dispersed manufacturing," Fung said.

He said that while the manufacturing model in the past involved setting up operations under one roof, products today are no longer manufactured in just one factory.

Fung noted that production was now globalized as parts or products were made in factories spread across different countries.

The new production system has benefited developing countries since they can participate in some activities in the production value chain, he said.

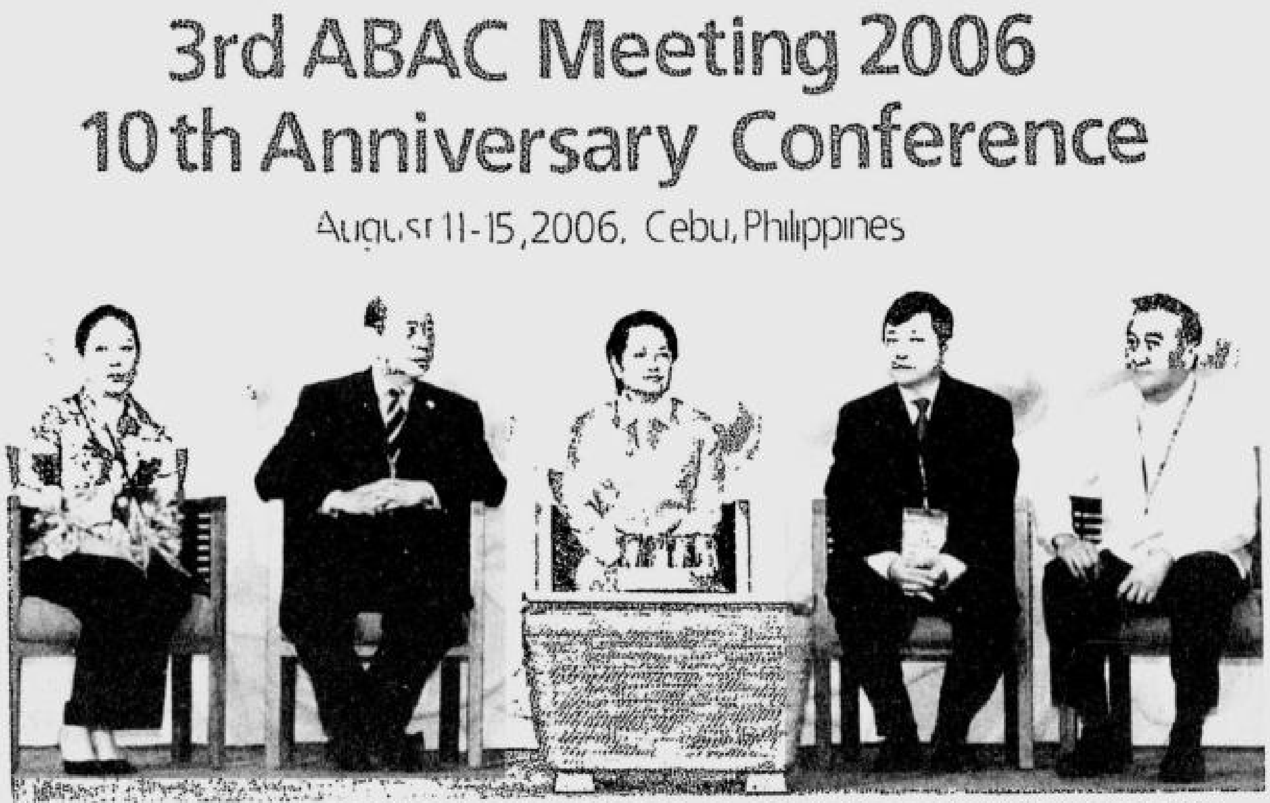
The modern global production system lowers the barriers to entry for developing countries, especially for small land medium size enterprises worldwide, Fung said.

"This has obvious implications for employment and economic development," he added.

Fung also projected that the dispersed manufacturing system is the way of the future, with even more segmentation of the global production system.

The Li & Fung group is a Hong Kong-based multinational company focused on supply management and active in export trading, distribution and retailing.

It operates in about 40 countries and directly employs around 16,000 worldwide.


3rd ABAC Meeting 2006
10th Anniversary Conference
August 11-15, 2006, Cebu, Philippines

PGMA LEADS 10TH ABAC ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was seated with (from left) Doris Magsaysay Ho, APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Philippines member; ABAC Philippines chair Ambassador Roberto Romulo; United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretary-General Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi; and ABAC Philippines member Benigno Ricafort before she delivered her speech Saturday during the 10th Anniversary Conference of ABAC at the Shangri-la Hotel Mactan Island Resort and Spa in Mactan, Cebu.

CITEM EVENTS

Trade fairs rake in $204M in exports

By Abigail L. Ho

TRADE EVENTS AND BUSINESS MISSIONS here and abroad generated $204 million worth of export sales for the country in the first half, according to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions.

Of the 19 trade events and business missions, Citem executive director Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes said the e-Services Philippines and the International Food Exhibition were the top earners, with combined export sales of $103.4 million.

Sales from these two trade shows both exceeded targets, she said.

e-Services Philippines, the country's annual information technology and IT-enabled services exhibition, was held last February.

The International Food Exhibition, on the other hand, took place last May.

Apart from the trade events and business missions, Agoncillo-Reyes said local industries also yielded significant business transactions when they participated in various expositions and trade missions, particularly those that featured Philippine natural, herbal and organic food products.

She said the Citem-led participation in the Natural Products Expo West in the United States and in the 1st Asean Health and Wellness Exhibition in Tokyo provided venues to boost the potential of those products.

Apart from the herbal and organic food products, the two trade shows also featured spa-related products from countries all over the world.

"Citem continues to be an advocate for market dynamism, especially for the small and medium enterprises that comprise 99 percent of the manufacturing establishments here in the country," she said.

"And the positive, noteworthy turnout can only be attributed to the 1,300 SMEs that joined the 19 trade shows and business missions organized by Citem, as well as their tireless effort in helping us promote the country's distinctively remarkable products and services," she added.

Citem is preparing to hold more trade shows in the remaining months of the year, including the second edition of the Manila FAME International furniture, gifts, houseware and holiday décor show.

DOTC identifies ₱305.37-B fund for key projects

Facilities to be in place by 2010

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION and Communications (DOTC) has revealed that it has identified funding sources for airport, seaport and rail projects worth P305.369 billion to be completed in 2010, with almost a third of the money coming from public-private initiatives.

These key projects are grouped under the so-called super regions introduced by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during her recent state of the nation (Sona) address.

These are North Luzon Agri-Business Quadrangle, which covers Regions CAR, I and II; Metro Luzon Urban Beltway Region, which consists of Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Mindoro, and Marinduque; Central Philippines Region, under which Palawan, Romblon, Visayas, Bicol, Camiguin, Siargao, Dapitan City will be developed; and Mindanao Region.

About P29.594 billion has been earmarked for airport projects for all regions, P24.664 billion for seaports and P189.111 billion for railways.

The North Luzon Agri-Business Quadrangle has been appropriated P9.504 billion for air and seaport projects; the Metro Luzon Urban Beltway Region will get P251.675 million for air, sea, and rail projects; the Central Philippines Region has P31.074 million in air and seaport project funding; while Mindanao region has been allotted P13.116 billion for the development of air and sea ports.

The majority of the funding will come from appropriations from the national government (NG), government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), private sector partnerships (PSPs) and partnerships with local government units (LGUs).

A small portion will come from overseas development assistance (ODA).

The biggest chunk of the budget will come from public-private funds at P98.541 billion. A far second in terms of size is GOCC funding at P70.157 billion, then NG-GOCC funding at P58.467 billion.

Next in line are tri-party funding (NG, GOCC, PSP) at P30.470 billion, loan-backed (NG-ODA) allocations at P26.409 billion, purely NG appropriations at P11.212 billion, private sector funding at P5.663 billion, GOCC-PSP agreements at P3.15 billion, and purely LGU components at P1.3 billion.

The private sector will be called on to play a key role in the development of the so-called Sona projects, to be completed by 2010.

Asked about the private sector participation, DOTC assistant secretary for planning and project development Robert R. Castañares said the government was very happy with the development because it signaled the business community's confidence in the viability of the projects and in the government's capability to maximize its resources to meet its targets.

DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a statement that in order to meet the Sona targets, the department was prioritizing those that have the greatest potential to boost domestic travel, tourism and trade and, at the same time, can be completed by 2010.

"We (at the DOTC) have identified 28 airports and 23 seaports for development, upgrading and modernization. In addition, there are also four railway projects identified," Mendoza said.

Treasurers cooperating with BSP on price fixing probe

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION of the country's bank treasurers yesterday expressed its support for an investigation being conducted by regulators over the group's alleged practice of price manipulation.

The probe of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) was initiated after reports emerged about anomalies in the setting of daily quotes for local bonds—a system that is managed and overseen by members of the Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART).

"We fully support the investigation currently being conducted by the BSP on this matter and hope this investigation will be completed soon for the good of the market," the association said in an e-mail statement to the INQUIRER. "We welcome any and all other investigations into the matter, in order to address and hopefully, put to rest all questions regarding the benchmark's credibility."

The electronic platform called "MART1" is the formula used by banks to derive the benchmark price for government securities in the secondary market.

Its daily price results are used by member banks to price bond trades—both publicly—and privately-issued—on the secondary market, and are also used to price commercial loans, among others.

The group said that it had conducted an internal investigation into the alleged price manipulation on MART1's results and "concluded that no such thing occurred."

The BSP's investigation into the price manipulation fiasco is ongoing. Regulators are focusing on e-mail exchanges between market participants urging each other to keep bond prices within pre-agreed levels.

"MART will not condone the manipulation of its benchmarks and will support any effort that will further strengthen the credibility of its benchmarking process," the group said in its statement.

Over the past two years, MART has been at odds with the central bank and the leadership of the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) over reform measures proposed by the latter, meant to improve the local debt market.

In particular, MART is opposed to the creation of the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. (PDEx)—an entity owned partly by the BAP, and encouraged by the BSP—which means to centralize all fixed-income trades in the country under a unified bond exchange.

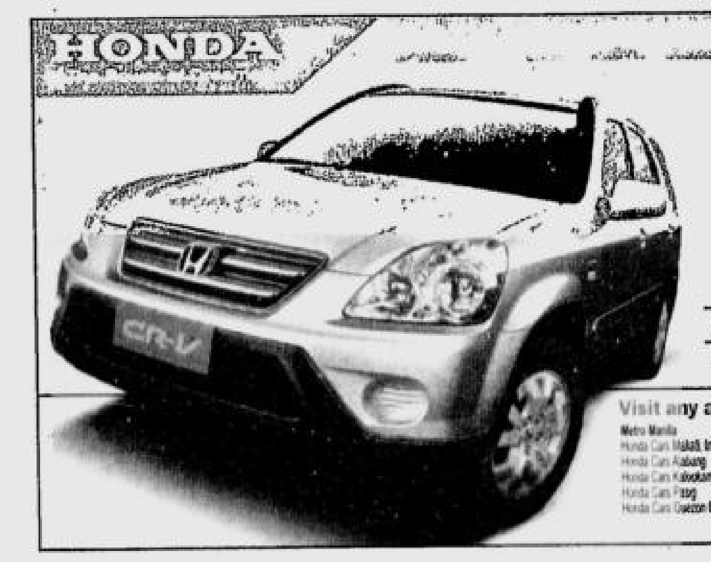
MART members believe the structure adds an unnecessary and expensive layer to the existing bond trading scheme, while its proponents believe a more formal system is necessary to prevent potential malfeasance among market participants.

In its statement, the group stressed its commitment to continuous reforms meant to improve the local capital market.

"MART has continuously improved the processes tied to the benchmark including the trading platform used by the participating institutions to contribute prices and trade amongst each other," it said. "Last year, its trading system was upgraded to the Bloomberg E-Bond, the same system adopted by the government of Singapore."

The group also objected to a statement by a BAP official opining that its MART1 index has "outlived its usefulness" and must now be replaced by a more modern system, such as that being proposed by PDEx.

"It is interesting to note that the procedures put in place by the BAP's PDEx for calculating the benchmarks are exactly the same as that of MART's," it said. "There is actually no change in the procedures which ensure its integrity and credibility. We therefore wonder how the benchmarking procedure is made more reliable by the PDEx system."


HONDA
IT'S THE FASTEST WAY TO GET YOUR SUV!
CR-V Select
Take home your very own SUV for less than a million pesos!
There's no offer for the CR-V better than this! Hurry to your nearest Honda dealer today!
MT P999,000
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Visit any authorized dealers for details:

IN THIS ISSUE
DREAM on /D1

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

The shape of fitness in 2006

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

FITNESS PROFESSIONALS from all over the world expect to learn new exercise programs at the annual Idea World Fitness Convention.

This year's event delivered exactly that—creative new formats and motivating variations on old favorites.

Not all of these new fitness ideas will be successful, meaning they will go past the tipping point to become staples at gyms and clubs around the globe.

The slide—a five-foot-long slippery board—didn't last long after its initial presentation in the early '90s. Today, it survives only as a training tool for professional speed skaters.

In 2000, our very own *tinikling* was transformed into an exercise program, Tinix Sticks, by an innovative American instructor who saw Fil-Am kids jumping between wooden poles for their Physical Education class.

Despite trendy marketing, lightweight foam poles and interesting choreography, it was barely a blip on the fitness radar screen.

A good idea stands the test of time. Consider step aerobics and high-low impact aerobics. Step was introduced in 1990 and high-low has been around since the '80s. Both programs are still being taught in gyms. Idea continues to offer workshops because surveys show its members still want them.

Yoga and pilates have continued to climb in popularity for almost 10 years now. Idea says the two formats are leveling off this year but show no signs of declining anytime soon.

Spinning or indoor cycling is also holding on. Mini balls that fit in the palm of your hand, basketball-size balls and large stability balls that you lie down and sit on are still everywhere.

Programs that are not new but have developed a growing following over the years are Nia (a mix of tai chi, martial arts, jazz) and Gyrokinesis and Gyrotonics (spiraling flowing movements done on the mat and on a medieval-looking machine).

And speaking of having a following, Beto Perez, creator of Zumba, might soon be heading a fitness cult. I heard that some teen participants across the United States were so taken with this popular Latin aerobics class that they had Zumba tattooed on their inner wrists. They called it being "zumbafied."

How is that for dedication to an exercise program?

New programs

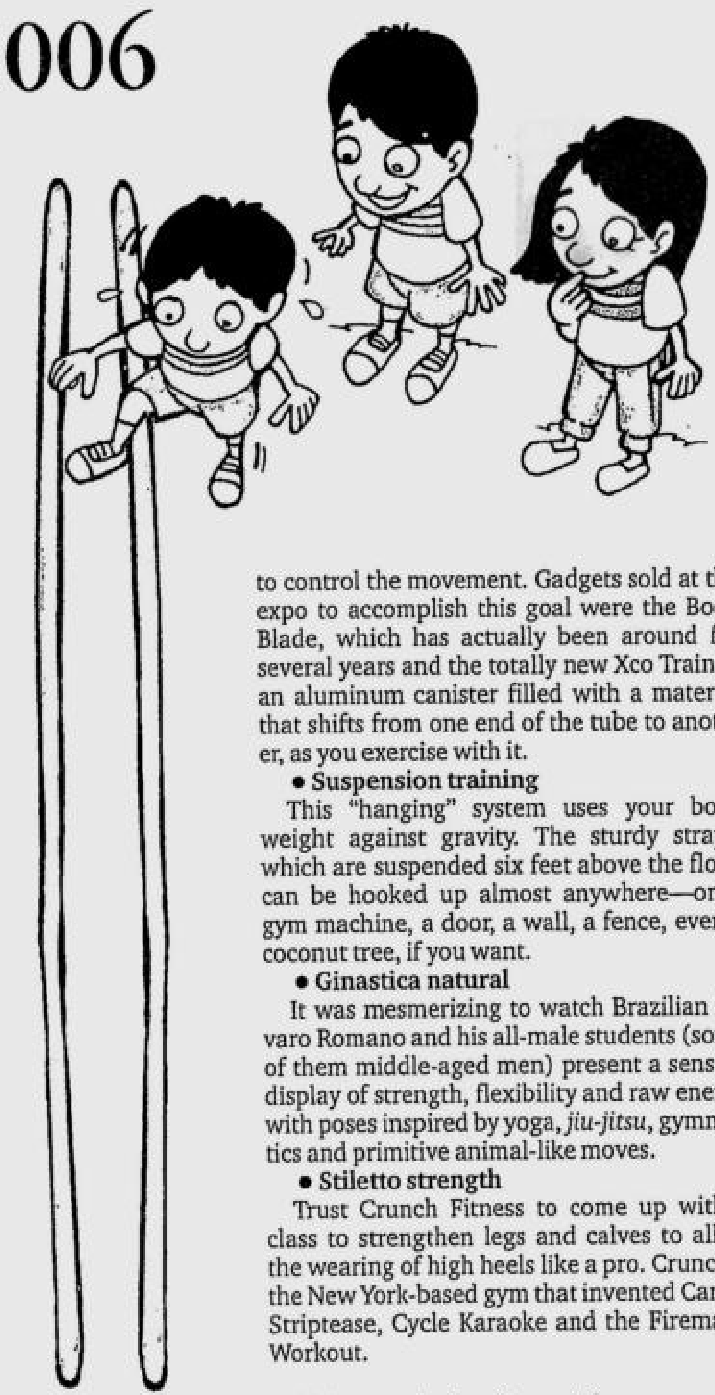
So what's new? Here's a short list of what caught my eye. Your guess is as good as mine whether these programs will be coming soon to a gym near you.

- **Drums alive!**

Stability balls are used as the "drums." Participants do various drumming techniques while standing up and moving around in all sorts of positions. It is a fun and energetic workout that uses the whole body.

- **Reactive impact training**

A shifting or oscillating resistance forces the body to react by tightening core muscles to control the movement. Gadgets sold at the expo to accomplish this goal were the Body Blade, which has actually been around for several years and the totally new Xco Trainer, an aluminum canister filled with a material that shifts from one end of the tube to another, as you exercise with it.



- **Suspension training**

This "hanging" system uses your body weight against gravity. The sturdy straps, which are suspended six feet above the floor, can be hooked up almost anywhere—on a gym machine, a door, a wall, a fence, even a coconut tree, if you want.

- **Ginastica natural**

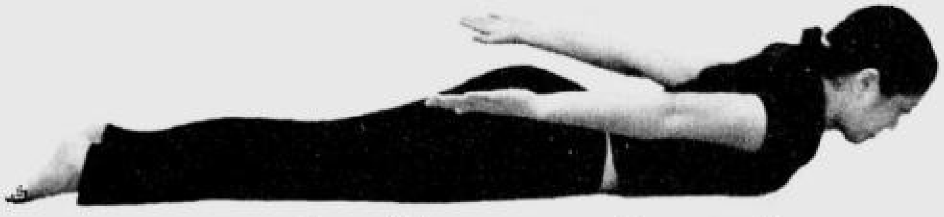
It was mesmerizing to watch Brazilian Alvaro Romano and his all-male students (some of them middle-aged men) present a sensual display of strength, flexibility and raw energy with poses inspired by yoga, *jiu-jitsu*, gymnastics and primitive animal-like moves.

- **Stiletto strength**

Trust Crunch Fitness to come up with a class to strengthen legs and calves to allow the wearing of high heels like a pro. Crunch is the New York-based gym that invented Cardio Striptease, Cycle Karaoke and the Fireman's Workout.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Prone shoulder extension pulses

STRENGTHENS BACK of the shoulders, triceps and the upper/lower back.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie face down on a mat with your arms beside you, palms facing up.
2. Lift upper back then extend arms behind you.
3. From this position, do small pulses upward.
4. Do desired repetitions.
5. Lower down to the mat.

Performance tips:

1. Avoid looking forward so you don't "crunch" your neck. Keep neck in line with spine.
2. Squeeze or contract shoulder blades to hold your upper body in the starting position.
3. Pulse from the shoulders not your hands.
4. Do short quick exhales as you pulse.

Repetitions:
Ten to 20 repetitions.

Music and Memories
with
Ms. Pilita Corrales
and
Christian Bautista

7PM, August 25, 2006
2L Activity Hub,
Starmall Las Piñas
Tel. 872-5249

MALL EVENTS THIS AUGUST

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. 718-1886
Aug 18- 20, 3- Day Sale, Mall Hours
Aug 19, Cooking Challenge with the Beauty Queen, 2/L, 4pm
Aug. 20, **Dion Ignacio** Mall Tour, 2/L, 4 pm
Aug 22 & 29, Rappenings @ The Mall, 2/L, 4pm
Aug. 26, Kids Fun Day @ Books For Less, 2/L, 4pm
Aug. 27, **Top Suzara** Album Tour, 2/L, 4pm
Tuesdays, Comedy Nights @ Cuba Libre, 2/L, 9pm
Fridays & Saturdays, Live Bands @ Cuba Libre, 2/L 9pm
Sundays, Acoustic Nights @ Cuba Libre, 2/L, 8pm

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. 850-3845
Aug 18- 20, 3- Day Sale, Mall Hours
Aug 19, **Starstruck's Iwa Moto**, Mall Show, 2/L, 4pm
Aug. 20, **Top Suzara**, Album Tour, 2/L, 4 pm
Aug 25, 3rd Quarter PESO Mega Job Fair, 4/L, 10am.
Aug. 26, Valbuena Cup TATAP Table Tennis Exhibition 3/L, 10am
Aug. 27, Totally Kidz... Ramp Out Fashion Show, 2/L, 4pm
Mondays, Live Bands @ Mark's Bar, 2/L, 8pm
Tuesdays, Acoustic Nights, 2/L 8pm
Thursdays, Comedy Nights @ Mark's Bar, 2/L, 8pm

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. 872-5249
Aug 18, **Red Horse Muziklaban 2006**, Semi-Finals, Open Parking, 6pm
Aug 25, Music & Memories with **Ms. Pilita Corales**
and **Christian Bautista**, 2/L, 7pm
Aug 26, **Fight Night**: Elorde Las Piñas Grand Anniversary Special, 2/L, 4pm
Mondays, Comedy Nights @ The Strip, 8pm
Tuesdays, Ballroom Nights @ Mark's Bar, 2/L 7pm
Wednesdays, Live Music @ The Strip, 8pm

WOMEN who care. Raquel Garcia, Suki Lammoglia and Tina Santos Wahl

MAWF VP and treasurer Ramon Ongsiako Jr.; Tina Schumacher, events consultant of European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; and The French Baker's Johnlu Koa

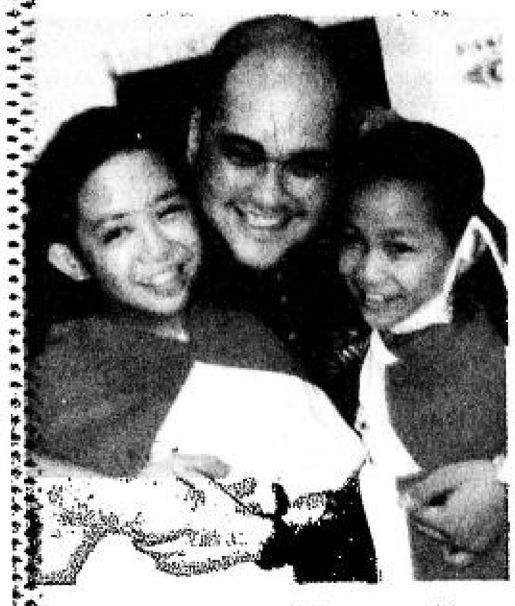
HUNK Andre Watson Rodriguez and gorgeous Elan Modeling owner Cecille Carpio

EON INC.'S Junie del Mundo and Senate deputy secretary for administrative and financial services Arnel Bañas

YOUNG achiever Winston Llamas of Wilbros Entertainment Inc.

READY, get set, fly! MAWF president Kahlil Bagatsing and Ethos executive creative director Mannix Peña with the brave little heroes of MAWF

Heroes make children's wishes come true


KAHLIL gives a couple of kids a warm, big hug.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

DOES THE WORLD NEED A hero? Certainly.

At "First Night," an event to mark Ethos Creative Solutions' first anniversary, super nice little kids with life-threatening illnesses, found themselves surrounded by everyday heroes.

And, *palanggas*, their wishes and dreams came true, thanks to the fab generosity of the event's invitees, who were asked by Ethos and Make-A-Wish Foundation (MAWF).

"'First Night' raised P40,000, a great help in fulfilling the simple and heartfelt wishes of the kids," said **Angelica Marucut**, the lady dedicated to raising funds for MAWF, *palanggas*.

Ethos has been providing premium services to clients in the furniture, jewelry, banking and food business. As a way of sharing its success, it chose MAWF as beneficiary. Foundation president **Kahlil Bagatsing** couldn't have been happier.

"I hope that by involving them in this occasion, we can show them a glimpse of the community where we can all be meaningful partners and friends," said extremely intelligent **Mannix Peña**, Ethos executive creative director.

Who did we see rubbing elbows at the star-studded event? Well, no less than **Zinia Avellaneda** herself, dahlings, assistant marketing manager of Officina del Tempo and Morellato. She was happy it was a movie night, the perfect treat for kids while catering to all ages and social groups, *palanggas*.

All those wonderful kids, wearing red capes and Make a Wish T-shirts, their *familles*, as well as the guests and sponsors, enjoyed the good, fun food, courtesy of The French Baker, led by my favorite bakery-café owner, **Johnlu Koa** (who, incidentally, just opened his flagship store at SM Mall of Asia).

Popcorn and Sola Iced Tea were served before the movie started at Rockwell Power Plant Mall's Cinema 4. The kids munched as they watched, with starry eyes, "Superman Returns," *palanggas*.

Publicity specialist Gatchie & Partners Inc. donated its services in promoting the event, under the leadership of company founder, cyber smart **Jeannette Gatmaitan-Reyes** and hubby, media whiz **Resti Reyes**, who said "there's no greater joy than seeing the happy faces of the children of Make-A-Wish Foundation."

Amen, *palanggas*.

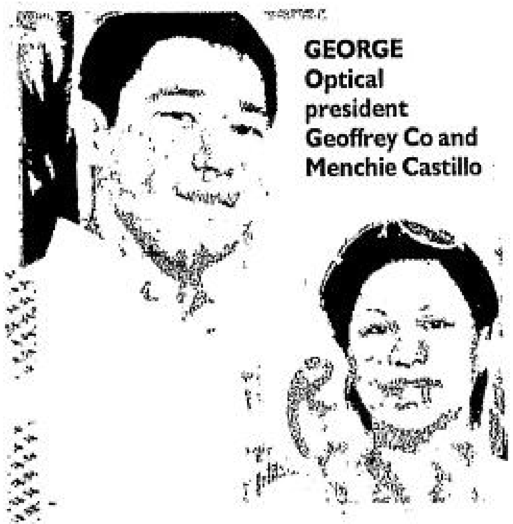
Ethos clients and invitees brought home awesome premium items like Nail Spa gift certificates, jewelry from Morellato, a timepiece from Officina del Tempo and a fab Escada Eluna bag.

Among the heroes with golden, caring hearts who joined the wish kids that evening were **Maricar Pastrana Holopainen**, with her two attractive daughters; Citisec head honcho **Edward Lee**; Euromode GM, tall, eye-catching beauty **Marilou Koa**; Eon Inc.'s **Junie del Mundo**; **Winston Llamas** of Wilbros Entertainment Inc.; plus others like them who make wishes come true for these wonderful children, who never give up hope, *palanggas*.

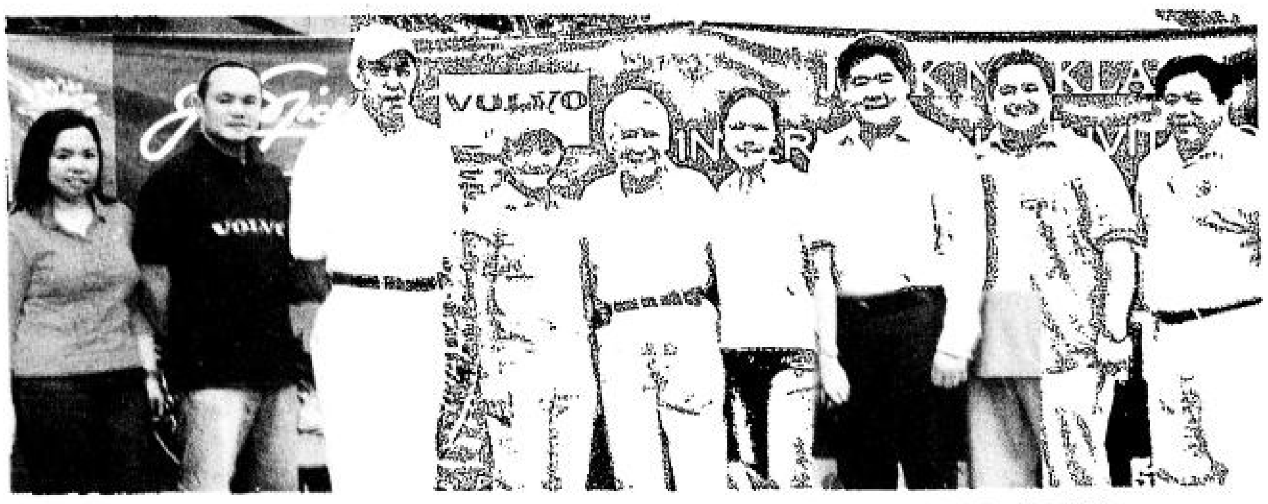
HELPING the less fortunate is Marit Yuchengco, daughter of former Spanish ambassador to the Philippines.

COOL Nico Ricafort

MAGSAYSAY Group's Leon Keekstra


GEORGE Optical president Geoffrey Co and Menchie Castillo

RAY-BAN'S gals Devi Leaño and Gabbie Avanceña, with professional race car driver Lory Uy


HOTSHOTS. RMK group product manager Jinggay Arcilla; Volvo senior sales manager Jojo José; Gulf Air country manager Robert Hukom; Jayvie Agojo; Rustan Group of Companies chair Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.; El Nido's PR and marketing manager Apple Lina; RMK executive VP Anton Huang; Sta. Elena's Bones Floro; and Sta. Elena GM Junie Ledesma

Ray-sing

The truly chic, classic-looking sunglasses are making waves again, *palanggas*. Ray-Ban, the world's No. 1 eyewear, launched its partnership with Race Fans Inc. and Slipstream at the humongous SM Mall of Asia, *palanggas*.

The fab happening kicked off with a bang, an awesome motorcade with Ray-Ban painting the whole town red! Inside the mall, George Optical's newest store was unveiled. It was followed by a fun cocktail reception at the Blue Room.

The evening got rolling with Ray-Ban's Magic 8, composed of talented students from Miriam College, who entertained us with a breathtaking belly-dance number, no less, dahlings.

The invitees were delighted to watch hot professional car racer **Lory Uy** in a hot-pink car and wearing hot-pink Ray-Bans.

All you racing enthusiasts, catch Ray-Ban's Slipstream partnership at the Philippine Touring Car Championships in Subic and Batangas at 12 noon every Sunday on Studio 23.

Fore

The sun shone, *palanggas*, and it was just what those hotshot golfers ordered for the Jack Nicklaus International Invitational held at the plush Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club, in cooperation with that chic car, the Volvo.

Golf whiz **Jayvie Agojo**, one of the hottest names in this sport having won tons of titles, was *tres visible*. She was joined by hosts Rustan Group of Companies chair, the adorable **Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.**, and RMK executive vice president, brilliant **Anton Huang**.

Other personas who have golf in their blood who were there included Sta. Elena's GM, **Junie Ledesma**, and **Bones Floro**; Volvo senior sales manager **Jojo José**; Gulf Air's mega asset, country manager **Robert Hukom**, with Gulf Air marketing head, southern beauty **Suzette Tongson**; and El Nido's PR and marketing manager **Apple Lina**.

Over 200 Jack Nicklaus shoppers joined but there were only a two winners. They will represent the country in the Jack Nicklaus International Invitational in November at Bear's Cub, Jupiter, Florida, United States.

With an impressive score of 60, winners were **Gary Sales** and **Felix Dennis Cortez**. First runners-up **Wilfred Batara** and **Manfred Guangko** each received a cool round-trip ticket to Dubai courtesy of Gulf Air, *natch*. Second runners-up **Alex Ignacio** and **Raul Gonzales** each won round-trip tickets and a three-day, two-night accommodation with breakfast at El Nido Resort in picture-perfect Palawan, *palanggas*.

Pity nobody got a hole in one. He would have driven home the awesome, sleek Volvo 540. The crowd swooned over three other Volvos on display, *palanggas*.

Loads of raffle prizes were also given away, including the Dunhill fragrance, awarded to the man of the hour, **Rafael Mapua**; Fury Active Eyewear, Tefal Cookware, Citreshine and Dep gift packs.

Hey, not bad for a fun day of golf. Thanks to Sta. Elena Golf Club, Volvo, that award-winning airline Gulf Air, El Nido Resort and Island Transvoyage, among others.

SECOND runners-up Alex Ignacio and Raul Gonzales; champions Felix Dennis Cortez and Gary Sales; first runners-up Wilfred Batara and Manfred Guangko

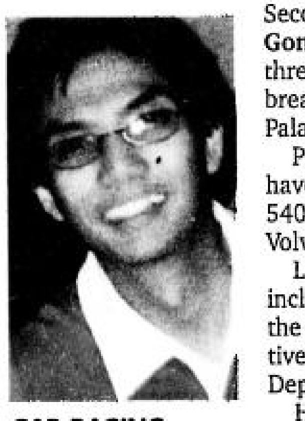
SLIPSTREAM'S host Carlo Tirona

GOLF LOVERS. Alex Revilla, Allen Macasaet, Vince Revilla and Mitch Locsin

KAT MONSOD and Malate's Prince DJ, Travis Monsod

SLIPSTREAM'S host, good-looking Dominic Uy

RAY-BAN invitees include Jimmy Mondoñedo, Mon Tioseco and Mia de Leon


CAR-RACING enthusiast Marco Avancena

People may be unknowingly risking death every day

FAKE MEDICINES CAN KILL. At the very least, they are not effective against a disease or an ailment.

Injectables that contain ordinary liquid composed of water and oil and mixed with starch or talc "are particularly fatal," says Normita Leyesa, president of the 48,000-strong Philippine Pharmaceutical Association.

"It is a nationwide problem," she says.

Buy-bust operations launched by the Department of Health's Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) have unearthed fake medicines in diverse places such as Nueva Ecija, Misamis Oriental and Zamboanga and General Santos cities.

Some of the fake medicines seized included multivitamins, cefazolin, cefuroxime, dydrogesterone, loperamide, gliclazide and dexamethasone.

Leyesa warns there have been several cases of deaths. "There have been reports of adverse effects ranging from itchiness to dizziness, from swollen eyes to difficulty in breathing or, worse, the fake drugs affect internal organs."

Some counterfeits have no ingredients at all, contrary to what they claim on the labels. Others are watered-down versions of the real ones. All the same, they defraud consumers and deny ill patients the therapies that ease suffering and save lives.

"There are two ways a patient is affected, by adverse side effects or the patient is not cured [and may even] die if it is a fatal disease because there are insufficient ingredients or no active ingredient in the fake medicines at all," Leyesa tells InterNews&Features.

Counterfeit medicines, as defined by the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs, refer to the drug itself, or the container or labeling without any likeness to that which is owned or registered in the Bureau of Patent, Trademark and Technology Transfer.

A drug is considered fake if the product is refilled in containers by unauthorized persons and the legitimate labels are used.

An unregistered imported drug product—except what is brought in the country for personal use—is also considered counterfeit. Then there are the drugs that contain none of—or a different active ingredient or less than 80 percent of—the active ingredient it claims to possess.

Fake medicines affect people who need real, quality drugs the most: cancer and AIDS patients and those with heart diseases.

Of the 30 medicines the United States National Association of Boards of Pharmacy named in a list of medicines especially susceptible to counterfeiting, 23 are used in treating HIV/AIDS and cancer.

Counterfeiters favor these medicines because of their cost. Sixty tablets of a particular anti-HIV drug retails for around $600. Thirty-six tablets of an anti-nausea medicine used by people undergoing cancer chemotherapy retails for roughly $1,000.

"On a daily basis, many individuals unknowingly risk death or serious injury to their health by taking counterfeit pharmaceuticals," according to the Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI), a non-profit corporation formed by drug companies to collate information on fake medicines.

In the Philippines, according to Samahan Laban sa Pekeng Gamot, anything from cough syrups to life-saving antibiotics could be counterfeit.

Samahan is composed of the Departments of Health, Trade and Justice; the Philippine Medical Association; Philippine Pharmaceutical Association; Drugstores Association of the Philippines; Mercury Drug Corp.; Watson's Personal Care Stores; Zuellig Pharma Corp.; Philippine Daily Inquirer; GMA Network Inc.; and Pfizer.

The Samahan has a toll-free hotline (1-800-10-FAKEMED) where any information on suspicious counterfeit medicines can be reported.

The US FDA estimates that up to 15 percent of all sold medicines are fake, and, in parts of Africa and Asia, this figure exceeds 50 percent. It also estimates that fake medicines comprise approximately 10 percent of the global medicine market. *InterNews&Features*

Why breast is best

BREAST MILK IS BEST FOR BABIES—even milk companies say so.

It provides complete nutrition and its unique components offer optimal absorption of nutrients and minerals, protection from harmful bacteria, and assistance in the digestion of fats.

Breast milk also has special growth factors and hormones that contribute to optimal development of the child. Its composition changes as the baby grows to meet the child's changing nutritional needs.

Breast milk is also a baby's first line of defense against infection. It provides antibodies and significantly lowers risks of common infant ailments.

Babies at risk of allergic diseases particularly benefit from breastfeeding, as it provides protection against allergies, asthma and eczema.

Research shows breastfeeding increases a child's intelligence quotient, reduces risk of obesity, improves the effectiveness of immunization, and enhances emotional security.

Breastfeeding is good for a mother's health, too.

Breastfeeding delays the return of ovulation and menstruation. LAM or lactational amenorrhea method is 99-percent effective in preventing pregnancy in the first six months as long as exclusive breastfeeding is practiced.

Mothers that breastfeed for at least six months have been found to have lower risk of breast, ovarian and uterine cancers.

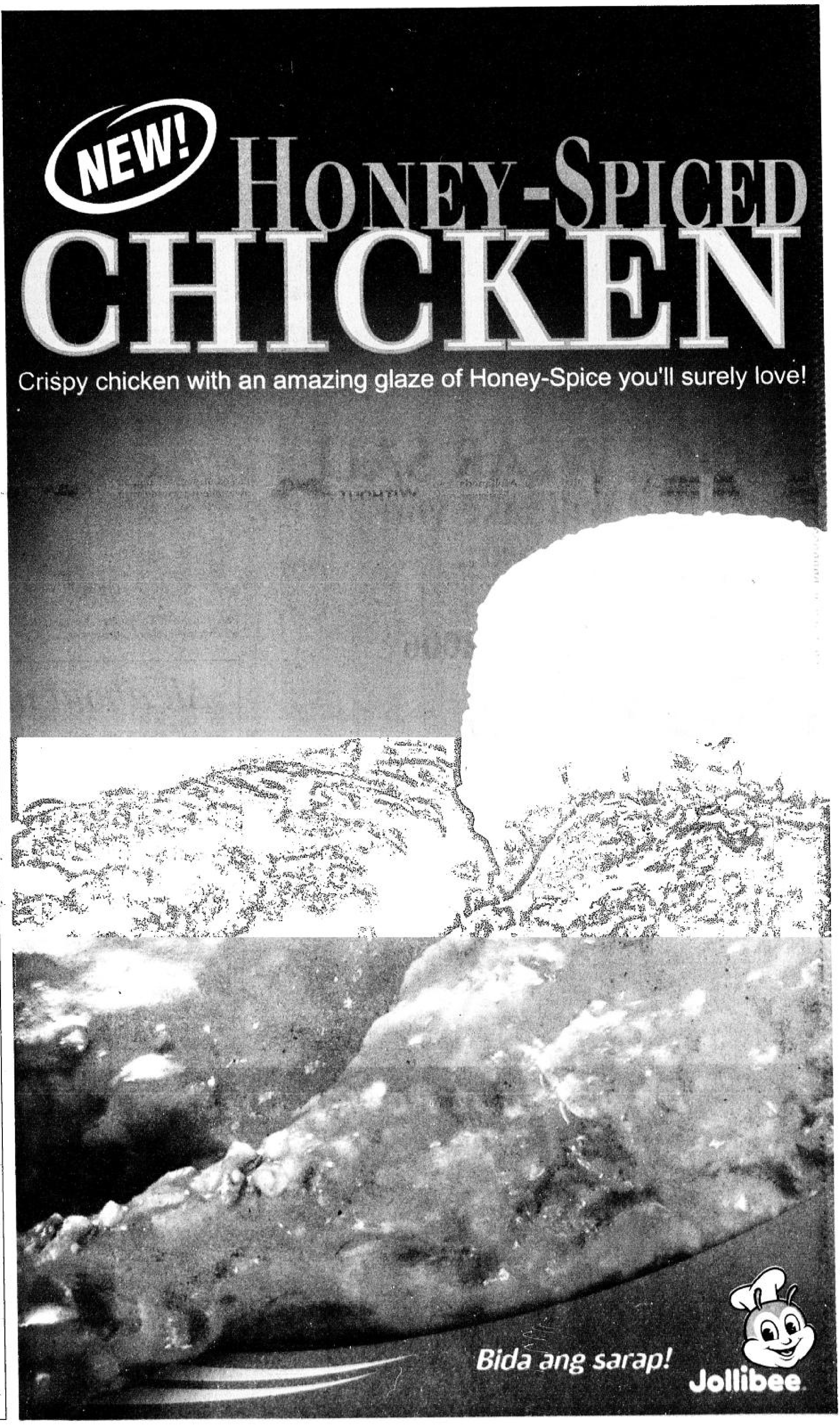
Breastfeeding also results in more rapid and sustained weight loss. Milk production uses 200-500 calories a day, equivalent to swimming 30 laps or riding a bicycle for over an hour.

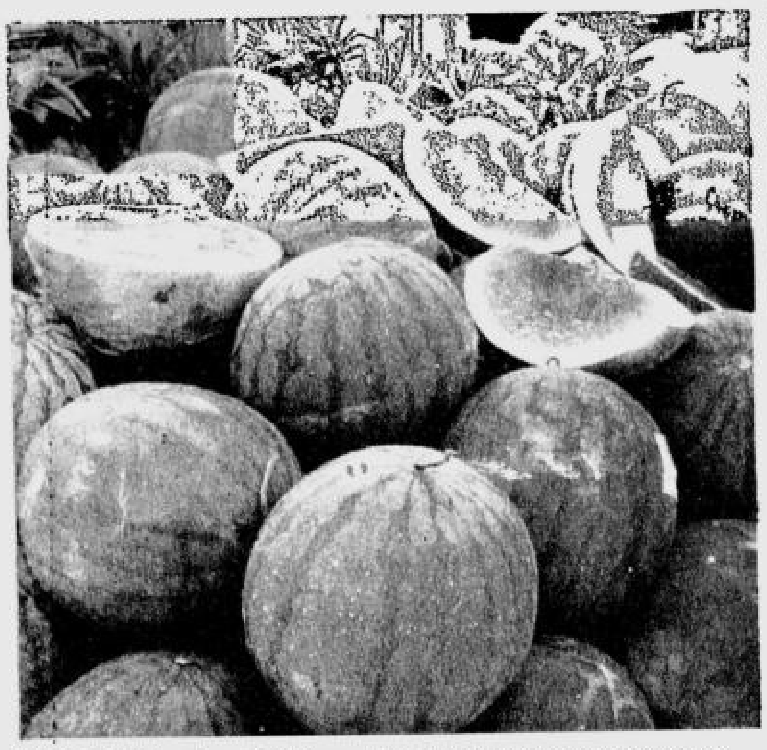
Breastfed babies are less stressful to care for. Skin-to-skin contact and closeness afforded by breastfeeding result in improved bonding between mother and child.

Families spend less on health care costs and formula milk.

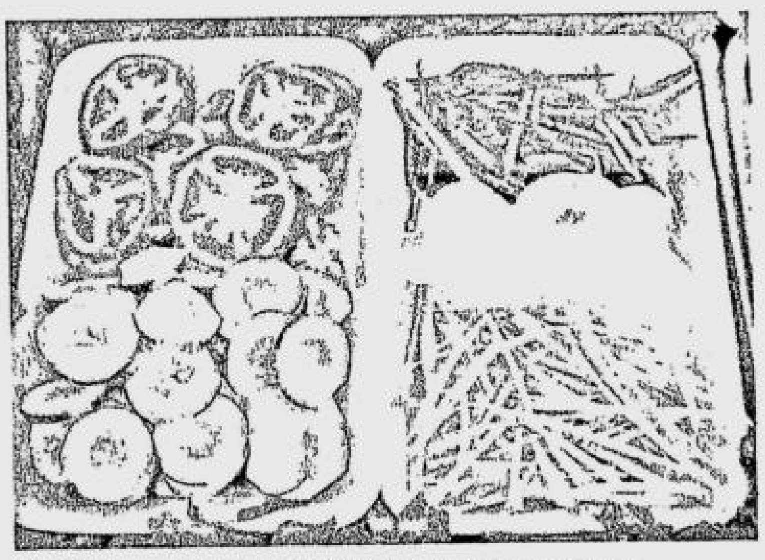
In fact, breastfeeding saves the country some P21.5 billion in formula milk imports.

Healthier babies also mean less health expenditure. It is estimated that more than one million episodes of illness among babies translate into P1 billion in lost wages, P100 million out-of-pocket expenses for health facility visits, and P50 million for hospitalization.


NEW!
HONEY-SPICED CHICKEN
Crispy chicken with an amazing glaze of Honey-Spice you'll surely love!
Bida ang sarap!
Jollibee



THE FRESH section of Robinsons Supermarket is a haven for those who love fruits and vegetables.



SMALL households can benefit from precut vegetables the supermarket offers.

LIGHT ice cream is healthier dessert.

Shop for total wellness

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET HAS launched its "Eat Well Spend Less" campaign to promote total wellness for the family.

The hub of the new campaign is the supermarket's Fresh Section that offers a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, meats, poultry, dairy and seafoods.

Jody Gadia, Robinsons Supermarket's general manager, said the wide selection of products and affordable prices were meant to encourage customers to eat right.

The Fresh Section also carries hard-to-find items like dragon fruit, fresh cherries and raspberries. The Galleria branch also has organically grown fresh produce like arugula lettuce, china ponkan, broccoli, peanuts and radish; breads such as sunflower pita, choco muffin and *ensaymada*; and chilled juices made from organic vegetables like sugarbeets, cucumber and watercress.

Other healthy finds include light and unsalted cheese, salt-reduced butter and other healthy substitutes made from Canola and sunflower oil, and a wide selection of low-fat milk and yogurts. Also available are 99-percent lean premium fresh meats and skinless chicken meat.

Robinsons Supermarket has special offers under the "Eat Well Spend Less" campaign. The Apple Tag Specials offer selected products at marked down prices.

Robinsons Supermarket also gives free information on health and nutrition through brochures and programs like free nutrition counseling, dental consultations, bone scanning, blood pressure testing, blood sugar testing and the like.

CHILLED juices made from organic vegetables are also available.

PESTICIDE-FREE products like organic rice, which is high in fibers, aid digestion.

SOFT reduced butter, as well as butter substitutes, are healthy options.

All about men's health

LEARN ALL ABOUT MEN IN THE LATEST issue of Healthy Options Lifestyle Newsdigest's special men's health issue.

Among the issues tackled is why women outlive men. The cover story, "Men and Aging," seeks to shed light on some key health concerns for the 40-plus man.

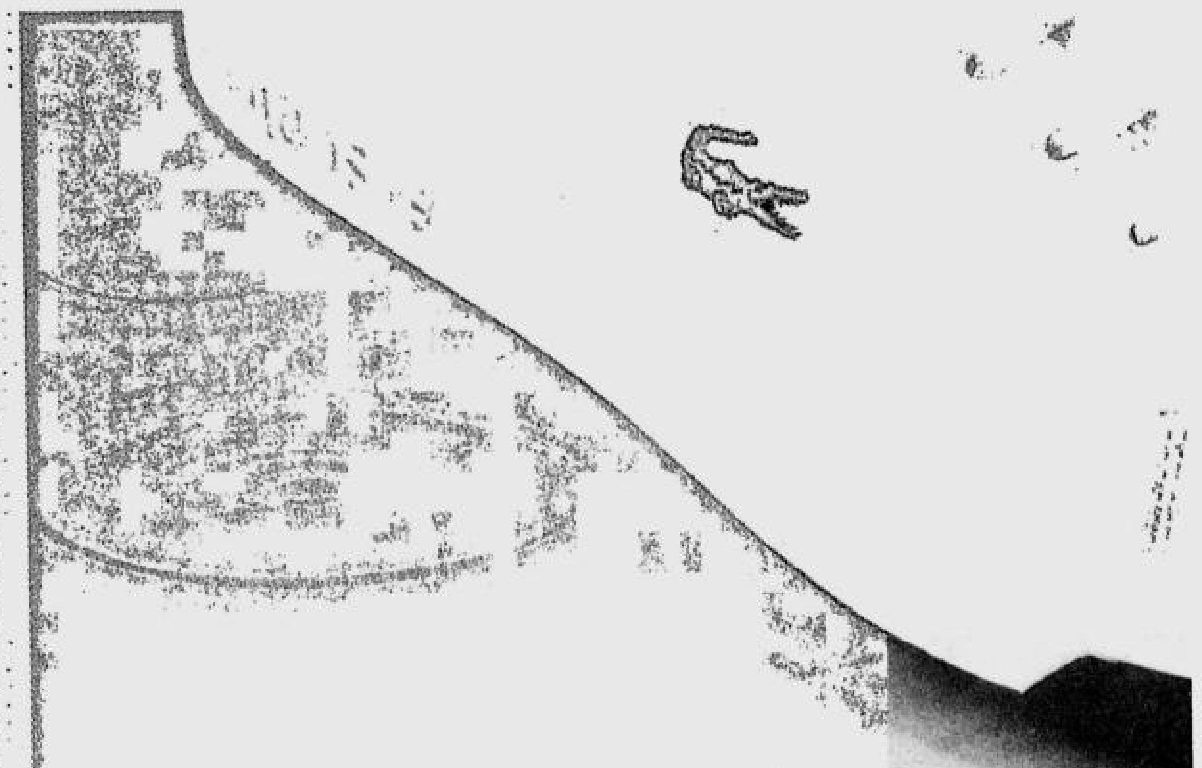
Also in this issue are "What Men Don't Talk About," "Intimacy and Aging: Tips for Sexual Happiness," and "Hypertension and Erectile Dysfunction."

The article "Foods to Boost Your Brainpower" suggests foods, herbs and supplements that can help improve memory, concentration and focus. Also food-related are "Cure Your Indigestion" and "High Cholesterol: Cholesterol Basics."

"Alzheimer's Disease at a Glance" gives some useful information on the aging-related disease.

Healthy Options Lifestyle Newsdigest is free at Healthy Options. Visit www.healthy-options.com.ph.

All About Men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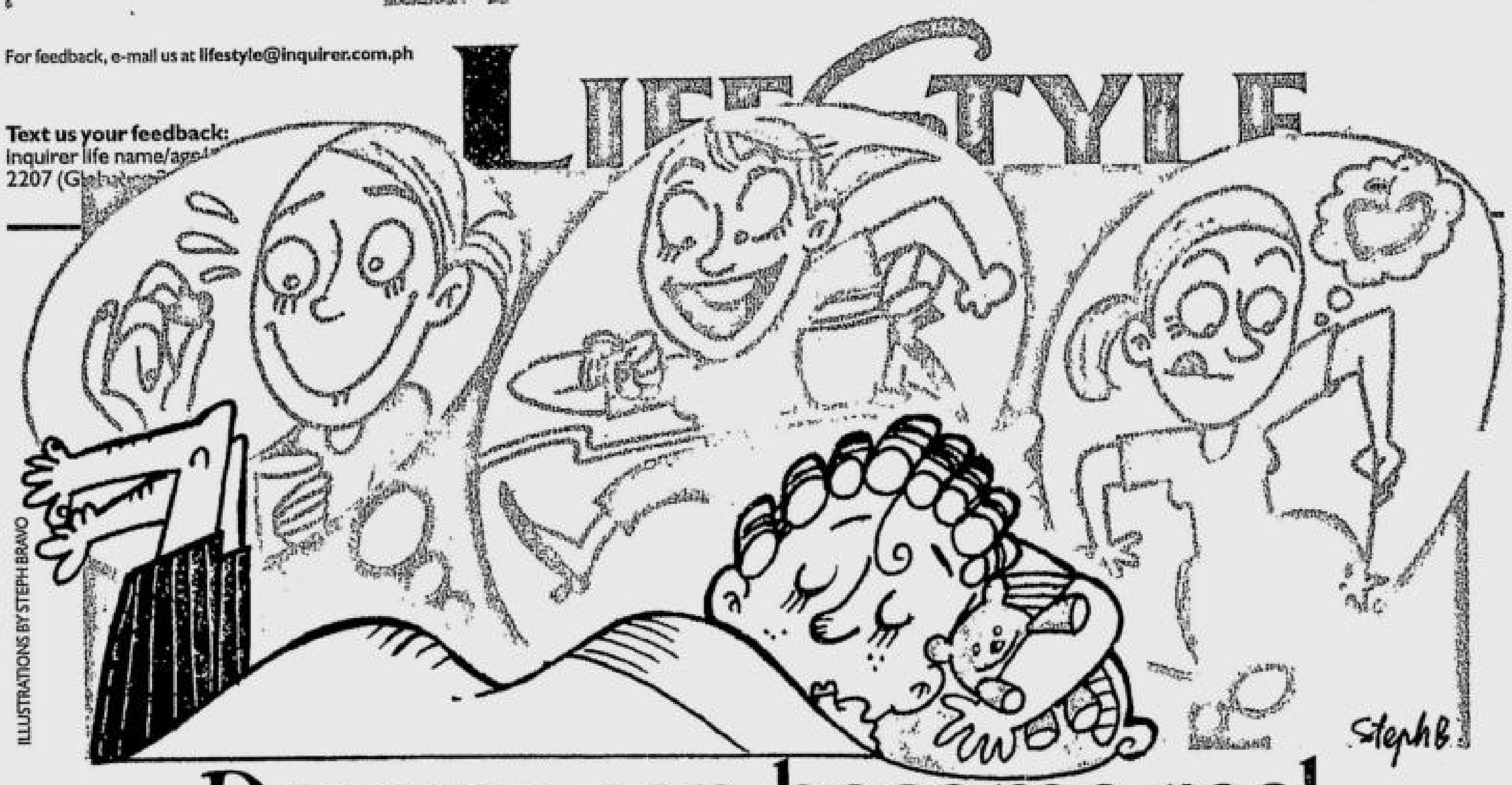
LIFESTYLE



ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

Dreams can become real

In the search for the best that we can be, we have to begin with who we are

LIFE WOULD BE BETTER IF…

- There was a happy pill that would naturally remove worries from our minds, pain from our hearts and aches from our bodies.
- A magic wand that could do a little nip and tuck in your least desirable places so you can have a perfect-10 figure without surgery.
- You could dress fashionably in an instant without spending minutes, even hours, in front of the mirror.
- Just one wish could transform your and other people's outlook in life.
- We could manage without sleep.
- Our bodies would never get sick or age.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

These are just some of the fantasies of people who cannot accept reality as it is. They have their own ideas of what reality should be.

Utopian dream

All of us dream of a perfect world, perfect people and perfect situations. As they say, dreams are free and dreamers have the freedom to dream on. However, in the search for the best that we can be, we have to begin with who we are.

Reality check

Truth is, one has to begin somewhere. So, let's start.

- **Happy pill.** There is a happy pill. But it's an imaginary one. It is fashioned by the mind, fueled by the heart and sustained by their teamwork. Trust me, it works.

Color it green for abundance, pink for perfection, blue for healing, orange for energy, red for passion and love.

Whatever color you choose, know that it is your subconscious that is deciding. This prompts the mind to behave and feel in ways only you can control. So take it daily with no fear of an overdose. Smile!

- **Magic wand.** Much like a happy pill, the wand is all yours to create. Visualize it as made of light. It is so powerful it can also influence your mind to do anything, placing the impossible in the realm of possibilities.

Once you accept it, know that you will make that expectation your own reality. Start pointing that wand at parts of you that require change.

Maybe you've been irritable and bitter lately? Point it at your head. That's a good place to start. The rest of you will need working on. And know that once your mind is made up, you will work toward your own improvement.

Ageless

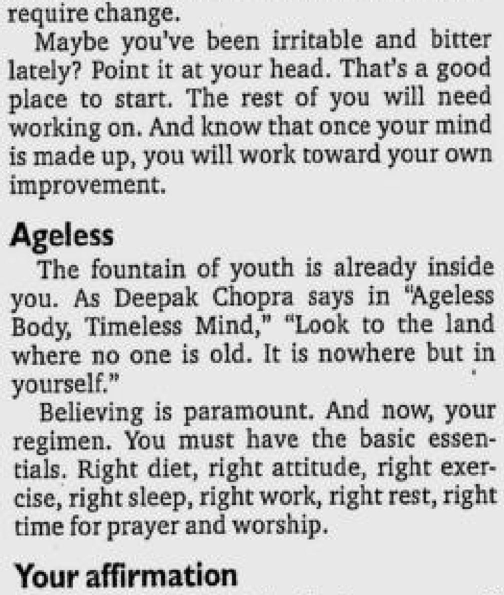
The fountain of youth is already inside you. As Deepak Chopra says in "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind," "Look to the land where no one is old. It is nowhere but in yourself."

Believing is paramount. And now, your regimen. You must have the basic essentials. Right diet, right attitude, right exercise, right sleep, right work, right rest, right time for prayer and worship.

Your affirmation

"Everyday is a birthday for I renew myself each day!"

Love and light!



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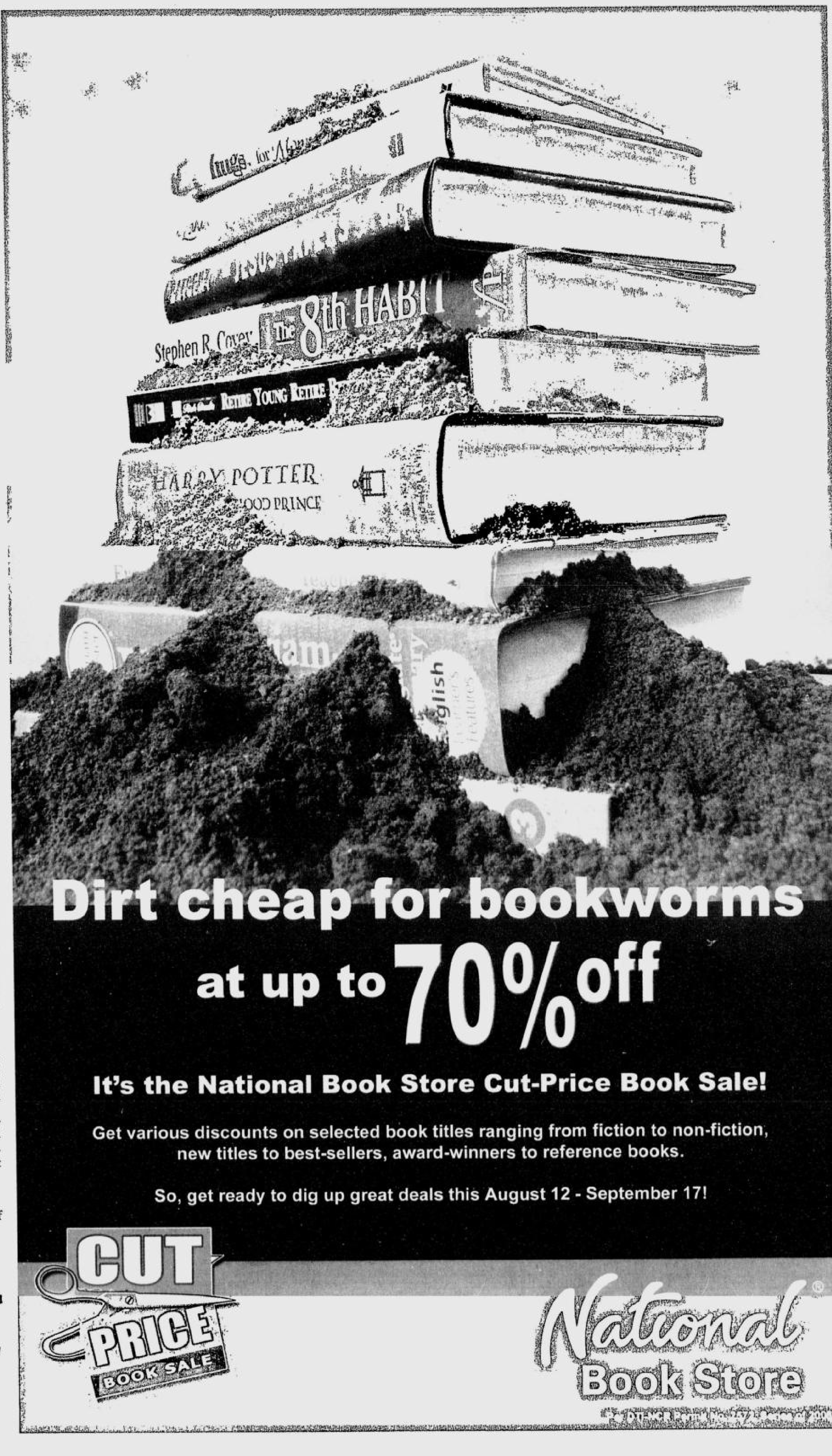
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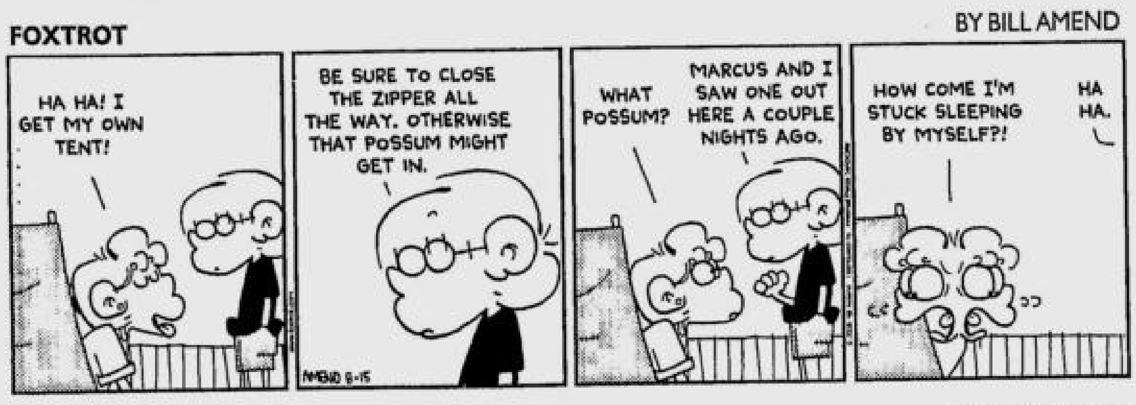
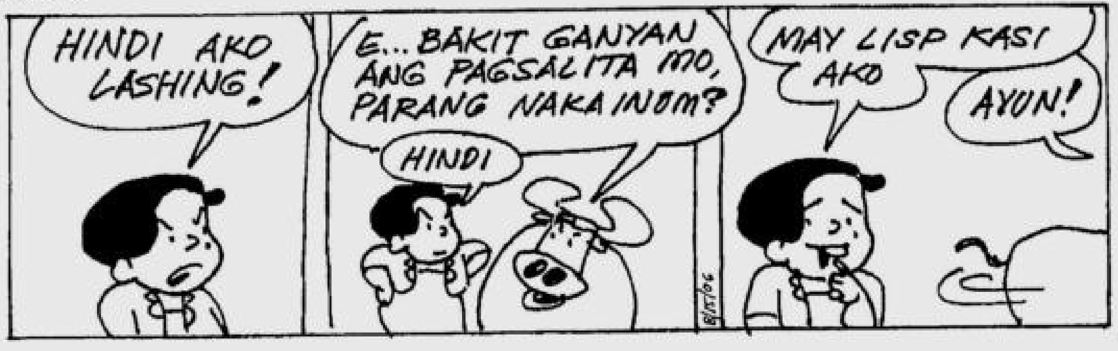
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HA HA! I GET MY OWN TENT!
BE SURE TO CLOSE THE ZIPPER ALL THE WAY. OTHERWISE THAT POSSUM MIGHT GET IN.
WHAT POSSUM?
MARCUS AND I SAW ONE OUT HERE A COUPLE NIGHTS AGO.
HOW COME I'M STUCK SLEEPING BY MYSELF?!
HA HA.
AMEND 8-15

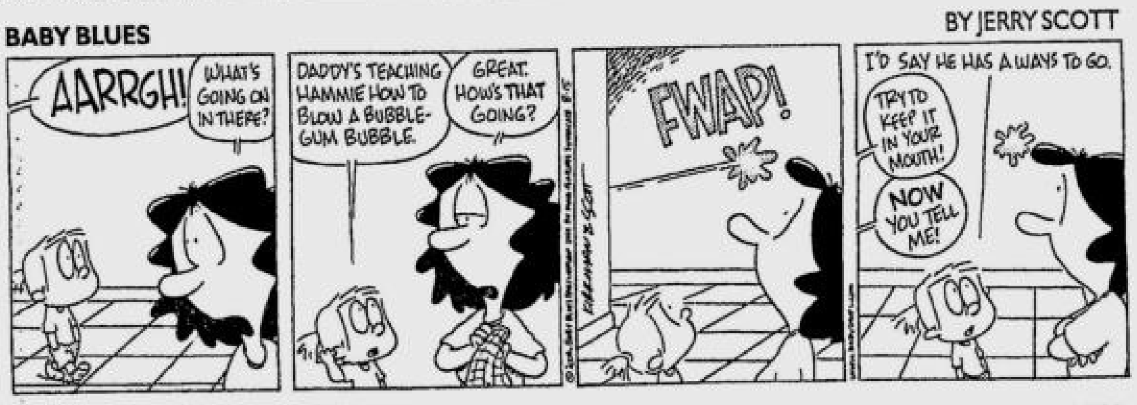
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI AKO LASHING!
E... BAKIT GANYAN ANG PAGSALITA MO, PARANG NAKA INOM?
HINDI
MAY LISP KASI AKO
AYUN!
8/15/06

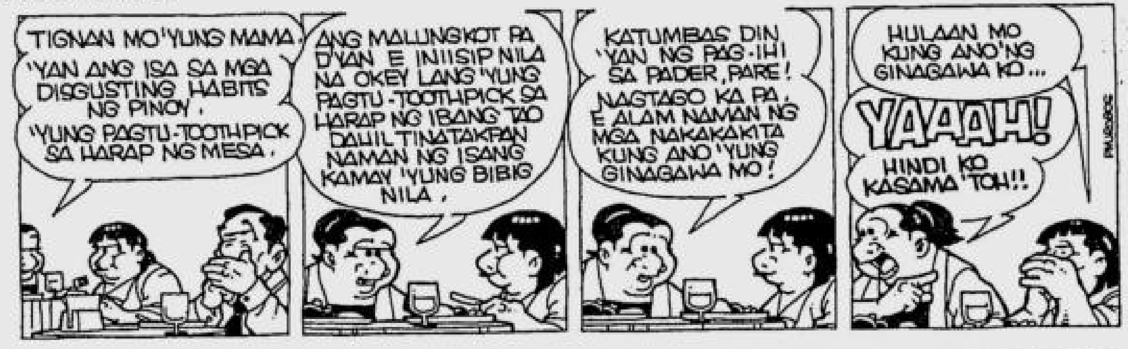
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


AARRGH!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
DADDY'S TEACHING HAMMIE HOW TO BLOW A BUBBLE-GUM BUBBLE.
GREAT. HOW'S THAT GOING?
FWAP!
I'D SAY HE HAS A WAYS TO GO.
TRY TO KEEP IT IN YOUR MOUTH!
NOW YOU TELL ME!

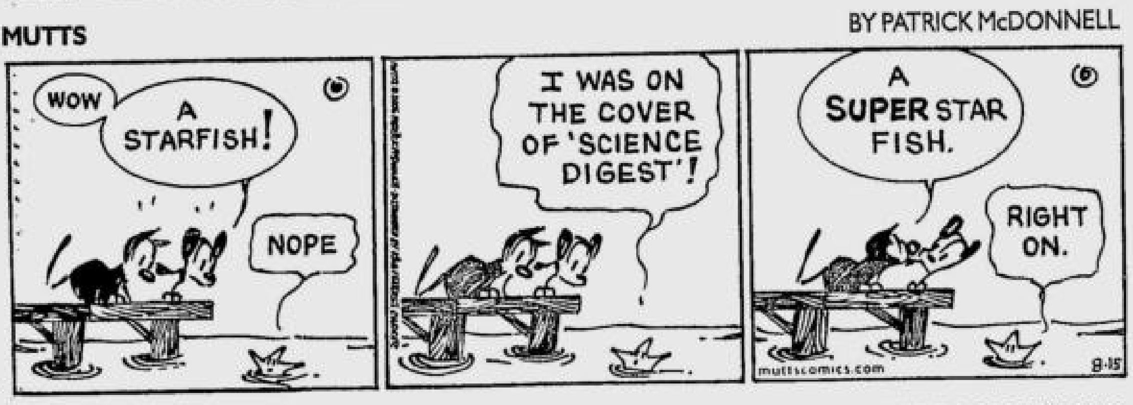
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIGNAN MO 'YUNG MAMA. 'YAN ANG ISA SA MGA DISGUSTING HABITS NG PINOY. 'YUNG PAGTU-TOOTHPICK SA HARAP NG MESA.
ANG MALUNGKOT PA D'YAN E INIISIP NILA NA OKEY LANG 'YUNG PAGTU-TOOTHPICK SA HARAP NG IBANG TAO DAHIL TINATAKPAN NAMAN NG ISANG KAMAY 'YUNG BIBIG NILA.
KATUMBAS DIN 'YAN NG PAG-IHI SA PADER, PARE! NAGTAGO KA PA, E ALAM NAMAN NG MGA NAKAKAKITA KUNG ANO 'YUNG GINAGAWA MO!
HULAAN MO KUNG ANO'NG GINAGAWA KO...
YAAAH!
HINDI KO KASAMA 'TOH!!

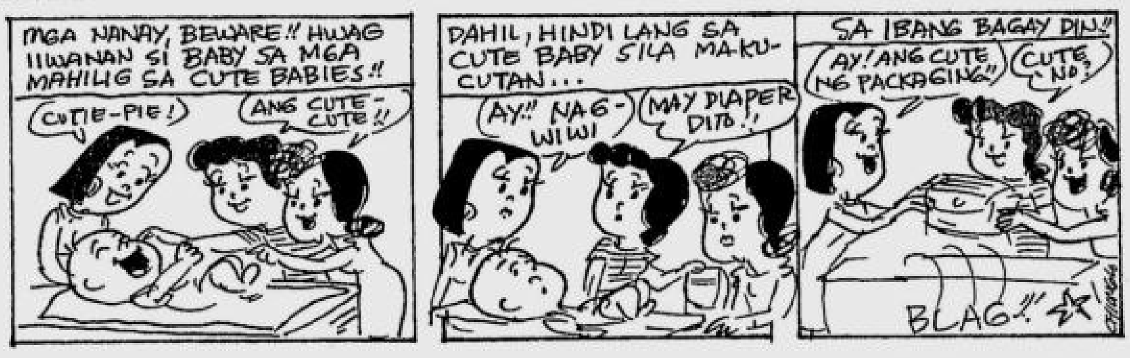
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOW
A STARFISH!
NOPE
I WAS ON THE COVER OF 'SCIENCE DIGEST'!
A SUPER STAR FISH.
RIGHT ON.
muttscomics.com
8-15

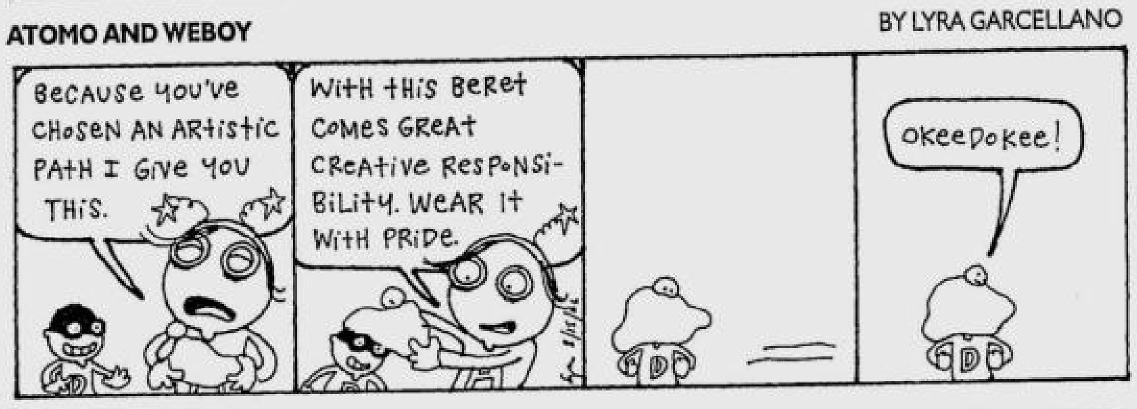
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA NANAY, BEWARE!! HWAG IIWANAN SI BABY SA MGA MAHILIG SA CUTE BABIES!!
CUTIE-PIE!
ANG CUTE-CUTE!!
DAHIL, HINDI LANG SA CUTE BABY SILA MAKU-CUTAN...
AY!! NAG-WIWI
MAY DIAPER DITO!!
SA IBANG BAGAY DIN!!
AY! ANG CUTE NG PACKAGING!!
CUTE, NO?
BLAG!!

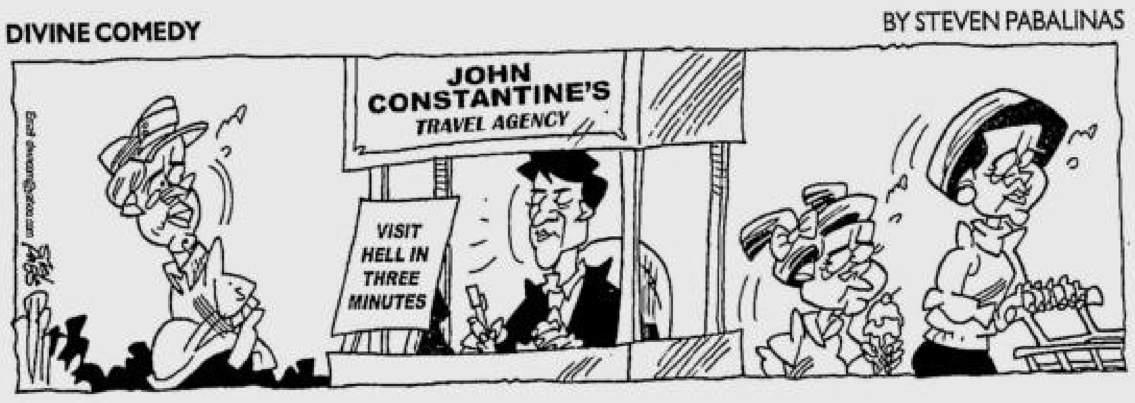
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Because you've chosen an artistic path I give you this.
With this beret comes great creative responsibility. Wear it with pride.
Okeedokee!

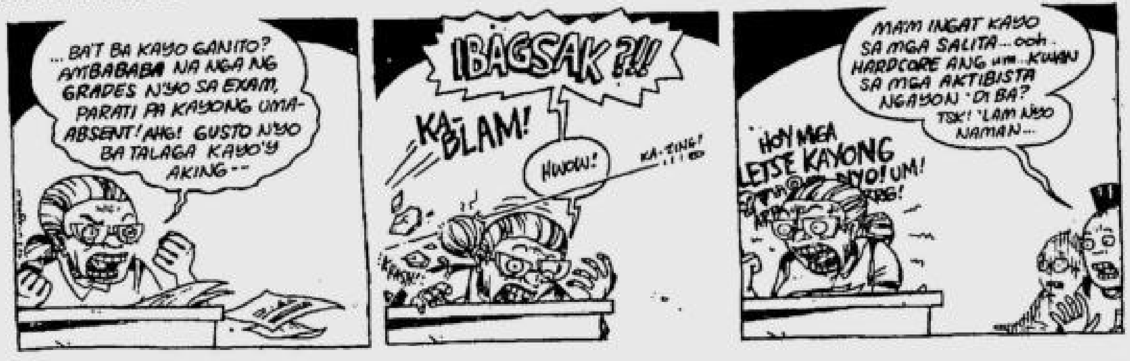
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


JOHN CONSTANTINE'S TRAVEL AGENCY
VISIT HELL IN THREE MINUTES

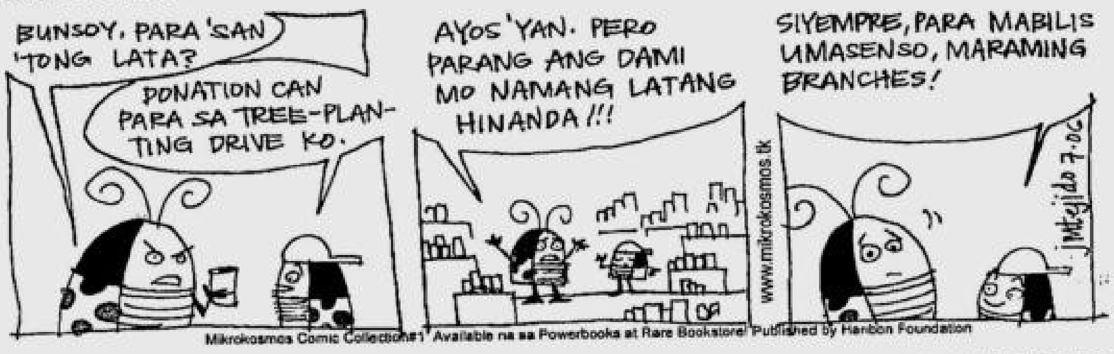
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...BA'T BA KAYO GANITO? AMBABABA NA NGA NG GRADES N'YO SA EXAM, PARATI PA KAYONG UMA-ABSENT! AHG! GUSTO N'YO BA TALAGA KAYO'Y AKING--
IBAGSAK?!!
KA-BLAM!
HWOW!
KA-TING!
MAM INGAT KAYO SA MGA SALITA...ooh... HARDCORE ANG um...KUWAN SA MGA AKTIBISTA NGAYON 'DI BA? TSK! 'LAM N'YO NAMAN...
HOY MGA LETSE KAYONG ...N'YO! UM!

MIKROKOSMOS

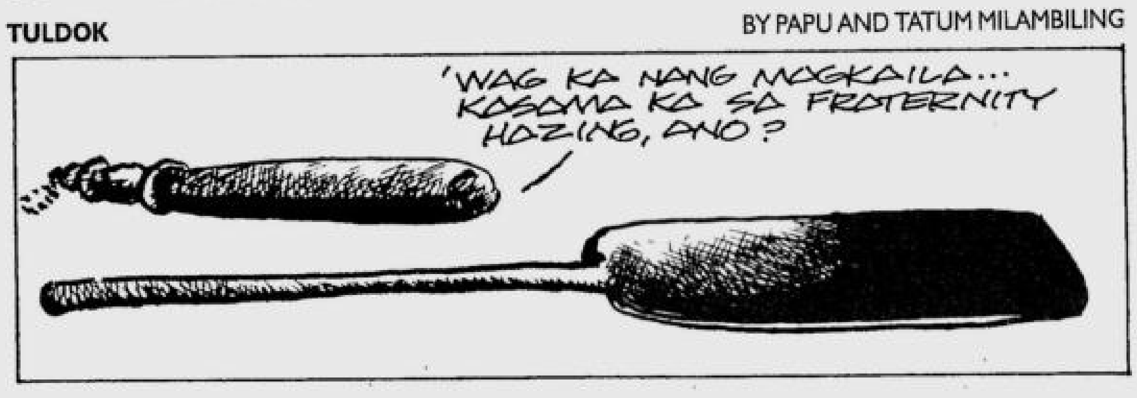
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, PARA 'SAN 'TONG LATA?
DONATION CAN PARA SA TREE-PLANTING DRIVE KO.
AYOS 'YAN. PERO PARANG ANG DAMI MO NAMANG LATANG HINANDA!!!
SIYEMPRE, PARA MABILIS UMASENSO, MARAMING BRANCHES!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
jmtejido 7-06

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Hanbon Foundation

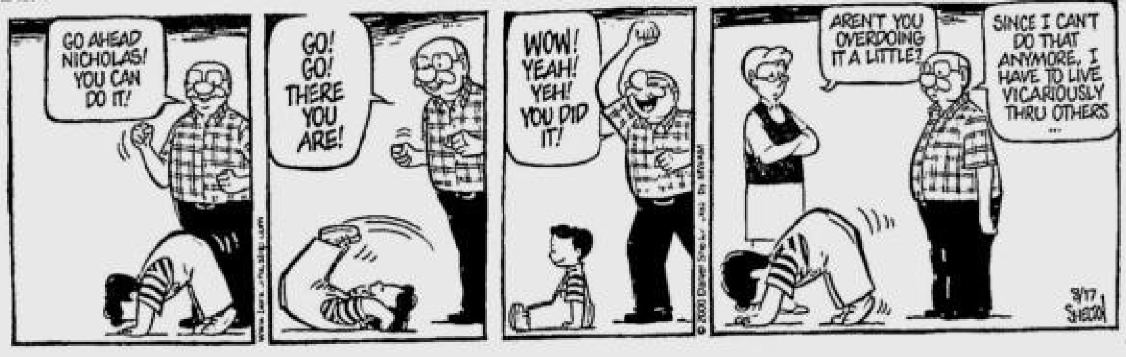
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

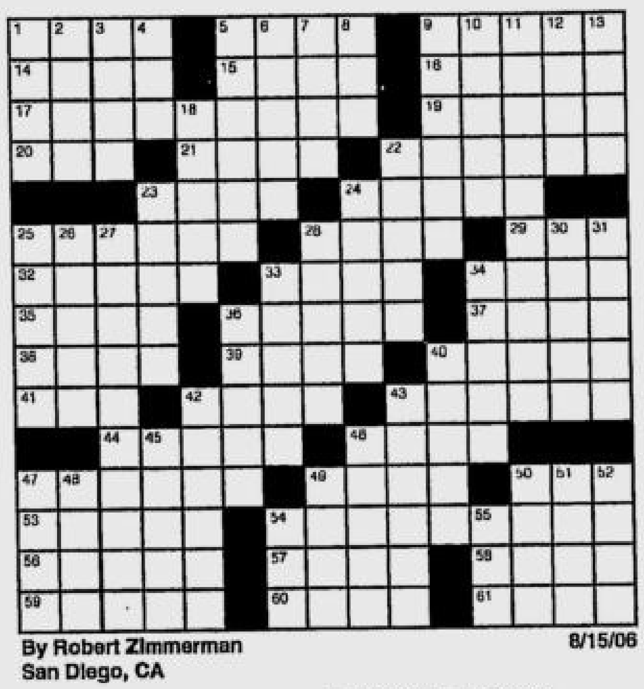

'WAG KA NANG MAGKAILA... KASAMA KA SA FRATERNITY HAZING, ANO?

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GO AHEAD NICHOLAS! YOU CAN DO IT!
GO! GO! THERE YOU ARE!
WOW! YEAH! YEH! YOU DID IT!
AREN'T YOU OVERDOING IT A LITTLE?
SINCE I CAN'T DO THAT ANYMORE, I HAVE TO LIVE VICARIOUSLY THRU OTHERS...
8/17 SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD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By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA

8/15/06

ACROSS

1 Singer Redding
5 Starter starter?
9 Workout wetness
14 Facial feature
15 Winter Palace ruler
16 Subarctic forest
17 Heller's catch
19 Star in Orion
20 Two halves
21 Portent
22 Town near Jerusalem
23 "Lucky Jim" author
24 Wave top
25 Churchill's successor
28 Pitfall
29 Cowpoke's assent
32 Christine of "Chicago Hope"
33 Icebreaker's ice breaker?
34 Off yonder
35 Ma Joad, for one
36 Ivy League school
37 Apple throwaway
38 Bonn mister
39 Fortissimo
40 Sulks
41 MOMA word
42 E-mailed
43 Aromatic resins
44 Immature
46 Autograph
47 Repugnant
49 Movie
50 JFK follower
53 Royal decree
54 Colt's product
56 Trial's setting
57 Cookie choice
58 Breaks off
59 Bergen's dummy Mortimer
60 Quaker colonist
61 Relish

DOWN

1 Fully aware of
2 Hamlet
3 That makes sense
4 D.C. legislator
5 Flummox
6 __ Park, CO
7 Mown grass
8 To and __
9 "The French Lieutenant's Woman" star
10 Holds off
11 Orwell's year
12 Noted film critic James
13 Kind of tale
18 Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"
22 Muscular power
23 Take in or let out
24 Three, they say
25 Hilo hello
26 Available buyer
27 Hitchcock's steps
28 Rainbow fish
30 Third planet
31 Fourth estate
33 Pitchfork part
34 Squirrel's breakfast
36 Commingle
40 Diminutive in stature
42 Well-matched
43 "Paradise Lost" poet
45 Take place
46 Femme fatale
47 Tach readings
48 Yemen port
49 Golfer's shout
50 Occupation
51 TM underwear
52 Witty remark
54 Dandy
55 Shriner topper

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	R	T	S	■	I	S	L	E	T	■	M	E	G	A
G	A	R	Y	■	L	H	A	S	A	■	A	X	E	L
O	Z	O	N	E	L	A	Y	E	R	■	R	A	N	T
G	E	M	■	S	S	W	■	■	■	A	C	C	R	A
■	■	B	U	T	A	N	E	L	I	G	H	T	E	R
H	O	O	R	A	Y	■	R	I	C	A	■	■	■	■
O	O	N	A	■	■	C	R	E	E	P	■	I	M	P
S	H	E	L	V	E	R	■	U	T	E	N	S	I	L
E	S	S	■	A	D	U	L	T	■	■	A	L	D	A
■	■	■	■	G	A	M	E	■	A	T	T	A	I	N
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B	U	L	L	■	O	X	Y	G	E	N	T	E	N	T
I	D	L	E	■	W	O	M	E	N	■	B	R	E	T
T	E	S	T	■	S	O	A	R	S	■	A	S	A	P

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8/15/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are the sign of royalty, and it shows. Your style is commanding. You have a quiet air of authority about you. You have high standards for yourself. People enjoy your company because you are generous and kind. You are quick to grasp what is going on. Work hard this year for rewards in 2007-08.
Birthdate of: Tess Harper, actress; Ben Affleck, actor; Linda Ellerbee, writer/actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might be disappointed about not having enough money for social occasions, a gift for someone or a vacation. (Join the club. We number millions!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today the Moon is in your sign. This is good. This brings you a bit of extra good luck. However, four planets in Leo challenge it. Try to keep the peace at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You know, no one ever hurt his eyesight by looking at the bright side of something. Think about that today. It's very easy to start worrying about things you can't do anything about.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Disagreements with friends about money are likely today. Postpone discussions about money and possessions until tomorrow. In this case, tomorrow really is another day!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Conversations with authority figures (especially parents, bosses, VIPs and the police) are difficult today. Don't even go there if you can avoid it. Wait until tomorrow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might be disappointed about news related to publishing, the media, travel or dealing with foreign countries. It might even be related to higher education. This is a temporary setback.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a poor day to decide how to share something that is jointly owned. It's also a poor day to discuss shared responsibilities for someone. Wait until tomorrow to talk about this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with partners, parents, bosses and friends are strained and stifled today. Knowing this, why bother? Avoid important issues that involve this interaction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Coworkers are not cooperative today. Someone might block you in some way. Don't take it personally. It's just in the stars. Tomorrow will be a much better day!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't be pessimistic and demanding when dealing with children. Remember the advice of Goethe: "Correction does much, but encouragement does more." This applies to adults as well!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): People are grumpy at home today. Family discussions are quite likely critical, bleak and negative. Be patient with others. Tomorrow everything is different.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel worried about something. You have too much on your plate, and this makes you feel overwhelmed. Hold the phone. Things change so quickly—you'll be surprised at how different you feel in 24 hours. (Trust me.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

1					2	3		
						9		
	5			3	8		1	7
		7		2				9
	1						3	
8				7		5		
9	7		2	4			6	
		3						
		2	8					4

Difficulty Level ★★

8/15

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	8	2	5	7	1	3	6	4
3	7	6	4	2	9	1	5	8
5	1	4	6	3	8	7	2	9
4	9	3	1	8	6	2	7	5
2	5	1	9	4	7	6	8	3
7	6	8	3	5	2	9	4	1
1	2	7	8	9	4	5	3	6
6	4	5	7	1	3	8	9	2
8	3	9	2	6	5	4	1	7

Difficulty Level ★

8/14

More questions and answers about paranormal phenomena

(Part II)

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

IT IS SAID ELVES OR DWARVES IN THE house is good luck. Is this true?

It depends on what type of dwarves you have around. If they are the positive or white ones, then yes. They may bring you good luck and good fortune. But if they are the negative or black ones, they may cause more harm than good.

Dwarves belong to what we call earth elementals or nature spirits. Sylphs belong to air elementals. Undines, water spirits and sirens belong to water elementals, and salamanders belong to fire elementals. The latter live in hot springs and volcanic lava.

How can I get rid of negative elementals in my house?

I suggest you don't attempt to drive them away yourself unless you are trained to do so. Otherwise, you may only bring more harm to yourself and your family. Ask a qualified and reliable psychic or medicine man or *espiritista* to deal with them.

If you want to know more about these invisible creatures, read my recent book "Dwarves and Other Nature Spirits, Their Importance to Man" published by Rex Publishing Corp. It is available in all Rex Book Store branches and selected branches of National Book Store and PowerBooks.

Is it really dangerous to use the Ouija Board?

Yes, because to use a Ouija Board the players have to open themselves up to the spirit world and call on a spirit to answer questions the members may ask. Often it is the lower and negative spirits who enter the Ouija Board.

The popular local version of the Ouija Board is Spirit of the Glass, but the principle is the same.

I have known cases in which people were possessed by evil spirits after playing Spirit of the Glass. Some suffered a nervous breakdown. At least one woman had a spontaneous abortion or miscarriage after she played Spirit of the Glass.

One can never tell what type of spirit will enter the glass or board. So avoid this practice at all cost. It is not worth it.

Do all people have the Third Eye?

Yes. The so-called Third Eye is nothing more than clairvoyance, which everybody has. It is not really a physical third eye but merely a symbolic representation of inner knowing. Clairvoyance comes from two French words, which mean "to see already."

Although everybody has clairvoyance, some are more highly developed than others. It is the same as the ability to draw or sing. Everybody can draw and sing but some people are better at it than others.

A person with a so-called open Third Eye can see things (e.g: elementals, fairies, angels and other spirits) that ordinary people cannot see.

But, in reality, anybody can strengthen his/her natural psychic perception through practice and regular meditation.

There are several types of clairvoyance. One is seeing what's going on at present; another is seeing the past (called retro-cognition). Another is seeing the future (called precognition). Still another is projecting one's awareness to a distant place and describing it accurately. This is called traveling clairvoyance or remote viewing.

Are humans the only ones who have ESP (extra-sensory perception) or psychic powers?

No, even animals have ESP. There are many documented cases of dogs saving their masters from certain death by anticipating the collapse of a house, the occurrence of an earthquake or similar events.

Several books and articles have been written about animal ESP. It is known, for example, that a dog can tell whether his master, who is at a distant place, is about to come home.

Dogs and cats, as well as horses, can sense the presence of spirits. They also know when a person close to them is about to die.

There is also evidence that dogs may have dreams because they exhibit rapid-eye movement (REM) while asleep. A person who is dreaming exhibits REM.

In which part of the brain is psychic ability located?

ESP is associated with the right side of the brain. According to some theory, the third eye is located in the pineal gland. However, there is no hard evidence of this yet.

Intuition, imagination, synthesis, depth and perspective, space relations, etc., all these belong to the right hemisphere of the brain. Analytical, logical, technical and mathematical thinking belong to the left hemisphere of the brain.

Biologist Roger Sperry discovered the specialized functions of the hemispheres of the brain for which he received the Nobel Prize for medicine, although he was not a physician.

How will meditation help me?

Dr. Herbert Benson, a cardiologist from Harvard Medical School, revealed the value of meditation in controlling stress and anxiety. He believes meditation is the natural response of the body to un-stress itself. He calls it the Relaxation Response, the opposite of the fight-or-flight syndrome discovered by Dr. Hans Selye.

Regular meditation also helps one develop sensitivity to psychic forces.

The silent bone destroyer

PEOPLE MAY NOT FEEL ANY PAIN BUT THEY may already be suffering from osteoporosis.

This warning was issued by Dr. Tito P. Torralba, founding president of the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines, who co-authored the Osteoporosis Tool for Asians (Osta).

Torralba says osteoporosis, which literally means porous bones, "is a silent, progressive and debilitating illness." It makes bones thinner, more fragile and more likely to break.

The problem is often recognized only when it has become severe, as it progresses painlessly.

About 200 million women worldwide suffer from osteoporosis. The Philippine National Statistics Office estimates, as of 2004, over nine million Filipino women aged 50 and above suffer from the disease. The figure may be higher as many cases are undiagnosed.

Among the latest medical products in the market for the management of the disease are oral biphosphonates (once-monthly ibandronic acid) that have been found to significantly reduce the risk of fractures.

Studies suggest that a less frequent dosing regimen, such as a once-monthly ibandronic acid, improves adherence to a treatment program.

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Take Charge Doc!

What are the signs & symptoms of lung cancer and how do doctors diagnose it?

Majority of lung malignancies present late. More than 90% of patients are symptomatic at the time of presentation. Most frequent manifestations are cough, difficulty of breathing, hemoptysis (bleeding from the lungs & airways) and chest discomfort. Other clinical manifestations are related to intra- and extrathoracic involvement of the tumor such as lymph node enlargements, voice hoarseness, bone pains, face and arm swelling, skin nodules, headache, seizure, syncope, recent mental and behavioral changes. Other constitutional signs and symptoms are anorexia, weight loss, generalized weakness, pallor, or prolonged fever. Lung malignancy is often suspected from any of these clinical manifestations and on the basis of abnormal chest x-ray. Diagnosis can be established by several techniques such as sputum cytology, fine needle aspiration biopsy, bronchoscopy with transbronchial aspiration biopsy, mediastinoscopy, thoracoscopy, thoracentesis or even biopsy of extrathoracic lesions (i.e.lymph nodes, skin lesions, etc). Amongst the recent medical and technological therapeutic advances, the most effective approach will still be excellent preventive medicine, simply to prevent people from getting sick. Smoking prevention and anti-smoking campaigns should be encouraged in the school and the community. This sincere commitment to fight against tobacco use is the most excellent weapon to combat the alarming global epidemic proportions of lung cancer.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Metro Manila, Dr. Liza Llanes-Garcia. She specializes in Pulmonary Medicine. She obtained her sub-specialty course at UP-PGH in 1997 and took up advanced fellowship training for Bronchoscopic Diagnosis & Treatment of Thoracic Diseases, Brachytherapy, Airway Stenting & Photodynamic Therapy in Tokyo, Japan. She is an active member of different organizations and one of those are American Thoracic Society and European Respirology Society. She is the current head of the Thoracic Oncology Unit at The New Medical City of which she holds clinic at Suite 415 Medical Arts Tower, from Mon to Sat. 2pm -7pm, TThSat. 11am to 7pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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3 WAYS TO TREAT THEM

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After the accident

After Contractubex® treatment.

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3. **Have PATIENCE.** Gently massaging Contractubex® onto the scar tissue 3-4 times daily, for at least 1-2 minutes each application, yielded favorable results (for recent scars, rub gently; for older scars, rub vigorously).

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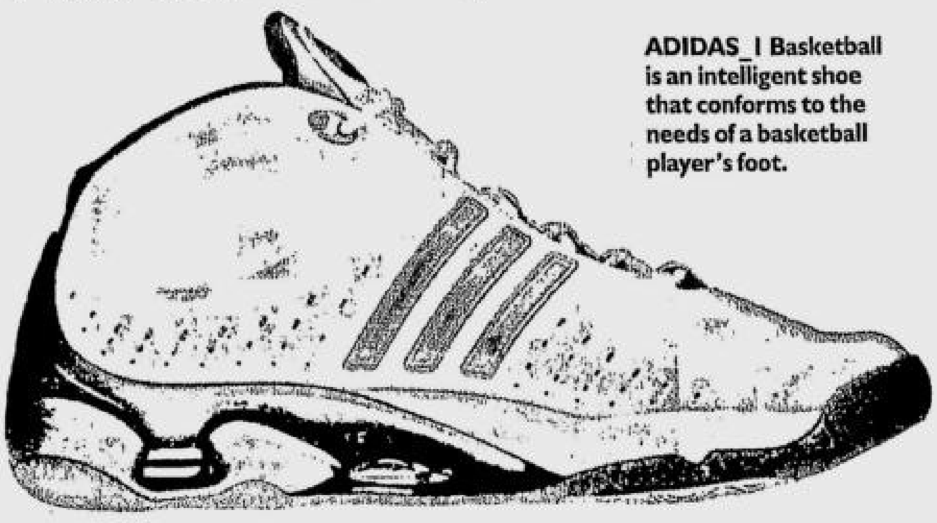

ADIDAS_1 Basketball is an intelligent shoe that conforms to the needs of a basketball player's foot.

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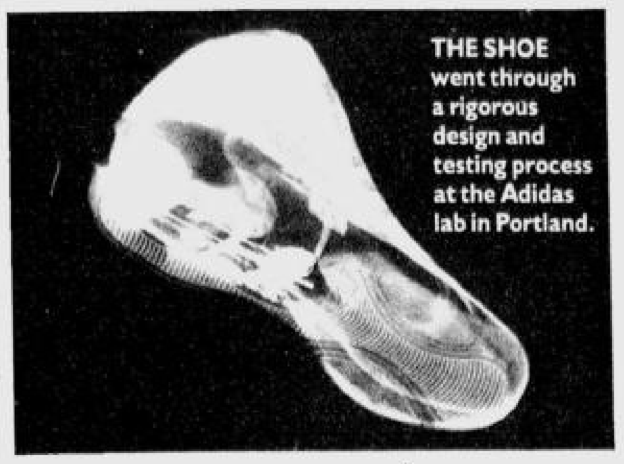
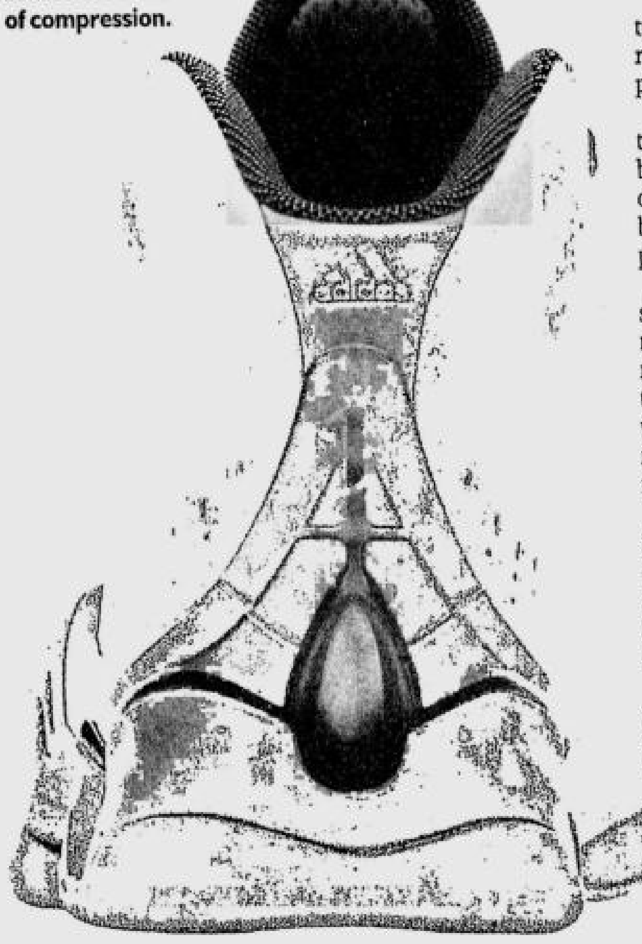


THE SHOE went through a rigorous design and testing process at the Adidas lab in Portland.

Basketball shoe gets some brains



THE SHOE has a magnetic sensor in the heel that senses the level of compression.

A NEW VERSION OF WHAT MAY well be the world's first intelligent shoe, Adidas_1, will be in the market this year.

The totally new version of the technology, Adidas_1 Basketball, reputedly takes intelligence into professional sports.

The new footwear is supposed to be much more than a basketball shoe. It is expected to be the only shoe in the market that will be suitable for every basketball player.

The Adidas_1 Basketball is designed to sense every player's move during the game. Its technology allows it to "understand" that a player has different needs when running the court, jumping for a rebound or cutting and driving to the basket.

The shoe has been developed to continually adapt its cushioning to give the wearer the optimum level of comfort and performance suitable to his unique playing style.

The Adidas_1 Basketball shoe works with a magnetic sensor in the heel that senses the level of compression. The compression level is sent to the shoe's "brain," a microprocessor that understands if the cushioning level is too soft or too firm.

A motor-driven cable system adapts the cushioning to make the shoe softer or firmer as needed.

An Adidas_1 Basketball shoe wearer simply has to switch it on so the shoe can gradually adjust to find the optimum cushioning level. After use, the shoe may be switched off. It will also automatically turn itself off if the wearer forgets.

A light on the shoe blinks to let the wearer know the footwear is resting, but not turned off. The shoe keeps checking for activity.

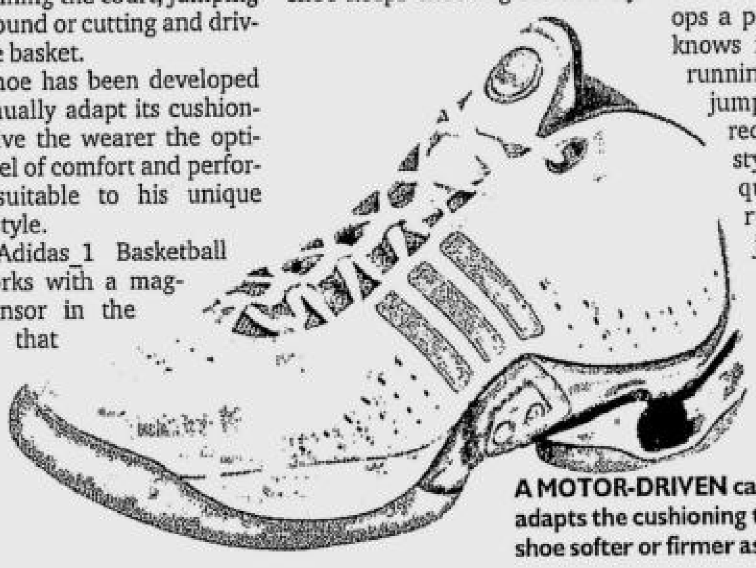
If the heel compresses again, the shoe "wakes up" and returns to "play mode."

If there is no compression after two hours, it moves to a softer setting and switches itself off, "chill mode."

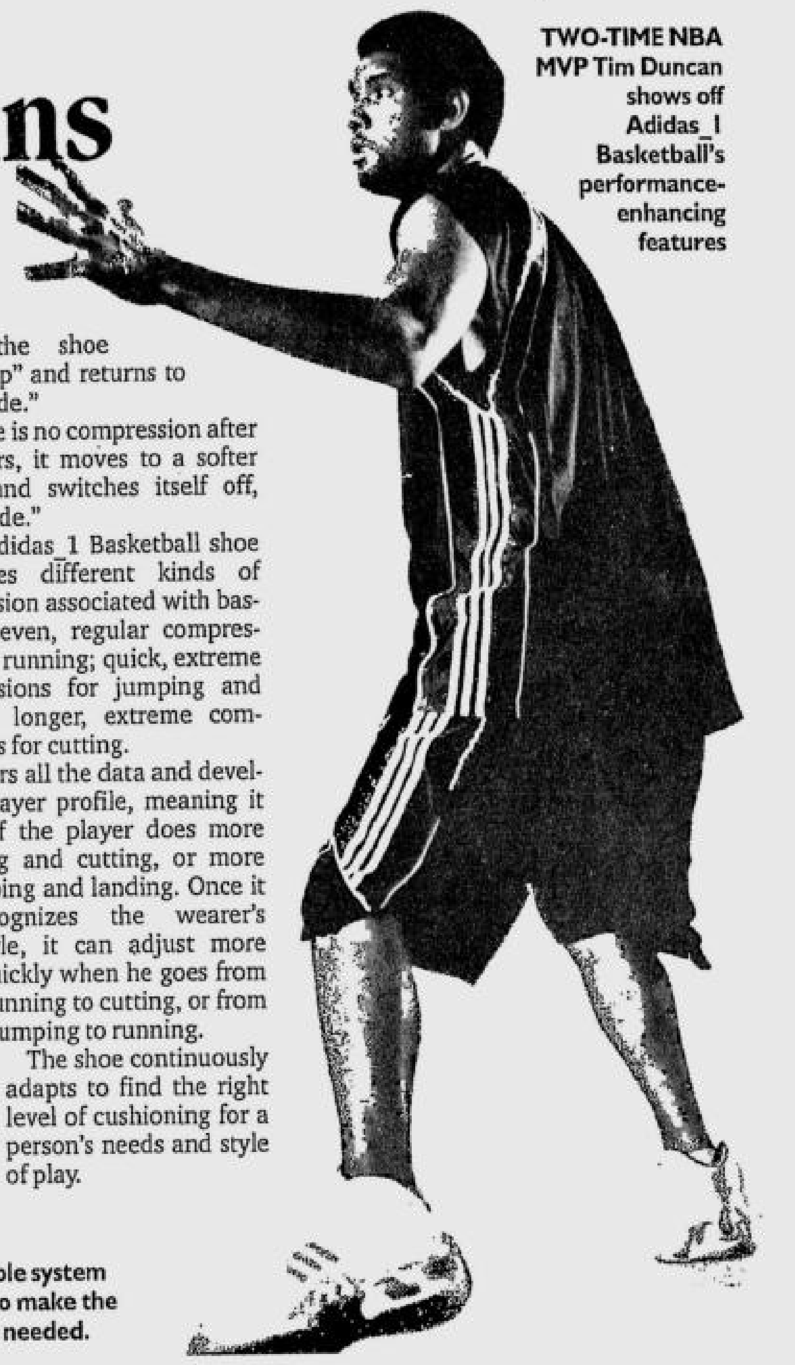
The Adidas_1 Basketball shoe recognizes different kinds of compression associated with basketball: even, regular compressions for running; quick, extreme compressions for jumping and landing; longer, extreme compressions for cutting.

It filters all the data and develops a player profile, meaning it knows if the player does more running and cutting, or more jumping and landing. Once it recognizes the wearer's style, it can adjust more quickly when he goes from running to cutting, or from jumping to running.

The shoe continuously adapts to find the right level of cushioning for a person's needs and style of play.



A MOTOR-DRIVEN cable system adapts the cushioning to make the shoe softer or firmer as needed.



TWO-TIME NBA MVP Tim Duncan shows off Adidas_1 Basketball's performance-enhancing features

Leaving footprints in the sand

LIFE MAY BE A BEACH BUT IT is better enjoyed with the right shoes. Get shore shoes for having a splash or engaging in water sports at Sports Central. The store carries a selection of beach sandals and shoes for all-day comfort and fun in the sand.

Here are some ideas for beach footwear:

- For relaxed resort chic, flip-flops and thongs are colorful, comfortable and fashionable. They are lightweight, open and easy to manage. The footwear is especially designed to allow the sand to slide off easily.
- For cool casual wear, slides or beach slippers are appropriate. They combine lightweight comfort and sporty style. Some slippers have adjustable upper and Velcro closure, while others have rubber-foam foot beds.
- Outdoor sandals make walking on the sand and maneuvering through rocks easier and safer for the feet. The wet-traction rubber outsole has a high-grip lug pattern for trail traction that even curls up slightly in front to protect the toes. Designed with crossed nylon straps or quick cinch side buckles, these sandals deliver versatility and comfort.
- Aqua shoes are best for jet skiing, kayaking and windsurfing. Designed for action and the water, they have drainage ports in the sole for quick grip on wet surfaces. Stretchy textile and molded overlay uppers provide great comfort. A custom fit makes them more flexible and responsive.

The beach footwear collection is available at all Sports Central outlets in SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM City Manila, SM City Sucat, and SM City Sta. Mesa in Metro Manila. It is also available in SM City Batangas, SM City Baguio, SM City Pampanga, and SM City Dasmariñas.

THE BEACH footwear collection will help ensure safety and comfort on the beach.

(FROM LEFT) Nestlé area sales executive Benjo Aguilar, Cavite City Mayor Toti Paredes, Vice Mayor Dino Chua with Milo sports events executive Pat Goc-ong during the 30th National Milo Marathon Cavite City elimination

PROFESSIONAL runners at the 30th National Milo Marathon Cavite City leg

Cavite marks fiesta with marathon

CAVITE CITY HOSTED A LEG OF the 30th National Milo Marathon as part of its fiesta celebration this year.

Joining the Caviteños in marking the event were Cavite City Magiting Jaycees EVP Vic Rufin, Noveleta Asin Jaycees EVP KonKon Alvarez, Milo Sports events executive Pat Goc-ong and Nestlé area sales executive Benjo Aguilar.

Marathon enthusiasts, including students of the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, participated in the event that started at dawn.

Winners were Jujet de Asis and Ellen Tolentino in the 21-km men's and women's division, respectively. The awarding ceremony was attended by Cavite City Mayor Toti Paredes and Vice Mayor Dino Chua.

De Asis, who is gunning for a Top 3 finish in the National Finals in December, is part of the Philippine Army Marathon Team. A regular participant in the National Milo Marathon, it was his first time to top the 21-km race.

Tolentino is also a veteran Milo marathoner, having participated in the last 10 years. Before her victory in Cavite, she placed seventh in the 26th Milo Marathon.

Paredes said he was glad Milo chose their city as one of the venues of the national marathon, especially as the Cavite leg coincided with the fiesta celebration.

The event also featured an interschool cheerdance competition. Participating students came from the elementary schools of Portabaga, Julian Felipe and Manuel Roxas, as well as the national high schools of Cavite and Noveleta.

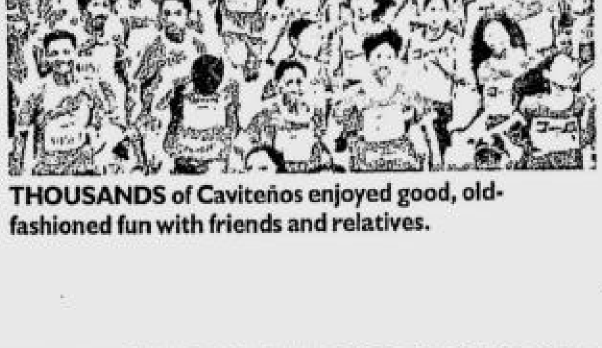
Portabaga Elementary School won in the elementary division while the Cavite National High School topped the high-school division.

The National Milo Marathon is making its way to 30 cities all over the country to give more Filipinos a chance to enjoy the event.

The next legs of the marathon will be held on Aug. 20, Laoag; Aug. 27, Cebu; Sept. 3, Butuan; Sept. 10, Iloilo; Sept. 17, Cagayan de Oro; Sept. 24, Tarlac; Oct. 1, Legazpi; Oct. 8, Zamboanga; Oct. 15, Dagupan; Oct. 22, Tacloban; Oct. 29, San Fernando, La Union; Nov. 5, Iligan; Nov. 12, Dipolog; Nov. 19, Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija; and Nov. 26, Santiago, Isabela.

The 30th National Milo Marathon is held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific, Adidas and PowerBar.

JUJET de Asis and Ellen Tolentino ruled the Cavite City leg of the 30th National Milo Marathon.



THOUSANDS of Caviteños enjoyed good, old-fashioned fun with friends and relatives.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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NINI VALERA

LIAN, MADEL, ANGEL AND SAIDA. They're young, they're sexy, and they want to be stars. Along with six others, they are known as EB Babes, the new dancing girls on the longest running noontime show in the country, "Eat Bulaga." Story on page E/5.

RP indie victory in Spain

A special jury prize for filmmaker Khavn dela Cruz

By Marinel R. Cruz

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER Khavn dela Cruz bagged a special jury prize for his feature film "Mi Ultimo Adios: Different Ways of Killing an Indio Bravo" at the recently concluded International La Palma Digital Film Festival in Spain.

Dela Cruz won a Best Director trophy in the same festival last year for his short films that competed in the *rueda* (wheel) section.

Also known as Festivalito, the IDFFLP was held from July 24 to 31 in La Palma, one of the seven Canary Islands in Spain.

One of the highlights of Festivalito is the *rueda* , which features short films created while the festival is ongoing. At the end of the week, a jury chooses the best out of the entries that follow only one theme.

"Last year, the jurors got rattled when, instead of making one or two short films, I made a dozen," Dela Cruz told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview in Makati City. "The subject was superheroes. That's why I called my work the 'Super Spanish Shorts.'"

"Mi Ultimo," which won the Valiente Award, is a "poetic documentary" on Rizal, love of country and death. The film was shot in black and white in Spain.

"It's my newest work. It stars Spanish celebrity Celia Blanco," Dela Cruz said. "The festival organizers hook up filmmakers with local actors."

Also in exhibition at the week-long fest was Dela Cruz's "Goodbye My Shooting Star," with Meryll Soriano as lead actress.

Dropped

Dela Cruz is the director of the full-length ani-

RP INDIE/ E2

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1 MIAMI VICE • THX
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

2 CLICK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 FIERCE PEOPLE
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

4 STORMBREAKER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

5 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 LADY IN THE WATER
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

7 THE BREAK-UP
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

9 JUST MY LUCK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 THE ANT BULLY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 636-7809 to 12

1 CLICK
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

3 FIERCE PEOPLE
11:45 1:50 3:55 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 STORMBREAKER
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

5 SUKOB
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE ANT BULLY
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

7 MIAMI VICE
10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE BREAK-UP
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 THE ANT BULLY
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

3 SUKOB
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

4 MIAMI VICE
12:55 3:30 6:10 9:00

5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

6 JUST MY LUCK
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 CLICK
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

8 STORMBREAKER
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 WOLF CREEK
4 SUKOB

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2578

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 SUKOB
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-6376

1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 STORMBREAKER

"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

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Fill in the missing letters to complete the right answer

1. The creator of the Miami Vice TV Series.
M _ C H _ E L   M _ N N
2. Plays the role of Sonny Crockett in the Miami Vice movie.
_ O L _ N   F A _ R   _ L L
3. Jamie Foxx plays this character in the movie.
R _ C A _ D _   T _ _ B S
4. In the TV Series, who played the part of Caitlin, the woman Sonny Crockett marries?
S H _ E N _   E _ S T O .
5. Miami is in what US State?
F L _ R _ D A

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3 CLICK
4 CHAOS

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2 THE ANT BULLY
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

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2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WILD ORCHID 2
4 SUKOB

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2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

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3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 WOLF CREEK
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2

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2 CLICK
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 WOLF CREEK
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
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2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 LADY IN THE WATER

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4 ANT BULLY/ CLICK
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN/ FIERCE PEOPLE
6 STORMBREAKER
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4 STORMBREAKER
5 ANT BULLY
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS
7 THE BREAK-UP
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 UMAARAW, UMUULAN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 STORMBREAKER
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 CLICK
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE
5 ANT BULLY
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 LADY IN THE WATER
9 JUST MY LUCK
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 CLICK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 MIAMI VICE
8 ANT BULLY
9 SUKOB
10 WHITE LADY
11 JUST MY LUCK
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 CLICK
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 SUKOB
6 THE BREAK-UP
7 JUST MY LUCK
8 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
9 ANT BULLY
10 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MIAMI VICE
4 ANT BULLY
5 SUKOB
6 SUKOB

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
THE BLOCK
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 FIERCE PEOPLE
5 SUKOB
6 MIAMI VICE
7 STORMBREAKER
8 CLICK
9 FIERCE PEOPLE
10 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
11 ANT BULLY
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 CLICK
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 ANT BULLY
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 THE BREAK-UP
9 JUST MY LUCK
10 WHITE LADY
11 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12 SUKOB

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 CHAOS
4 CLICK

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 MIAMI VICE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

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Watch Ryan Agoncillo in this modern day love story proving that love indeed, truly has its mysterious ways

umaaraw , umuulan

Starring Ryan Agoncillo, Precious Lara Quigaman and Herbert Bautista
A story by Luigi Santiago and Adolf Alix Jr Directed by Richard Arellano

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SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 ANT BULLY
2 CLICK
3 TAKE THE LEAD
4 SUKOB

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 LOVEWRECKED

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 TAMARA
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 STORMBREAKER
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 SUKOB
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
8 ANT BULLY

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 SUKOB

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 SUKOB
2 CHAOS
3 REINCARNATION
4 THE NUN

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 ANT BULLY
4 TAMARA
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 SUKOB

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 SUKOB
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 TAMARA

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 LOVEWRECKED
2 TAMARA
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 CLICK
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 EVIL DEAD
7 SUKOB
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY
5 CLICK
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
7 RESERVED
8 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 CLICK
2 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
3 SUKOB
4 AMERICAN HAUNTING
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEA
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 CLICK

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

KHAVN dela Cruz

RP indie . . .

From page E1

mated film "Larombata," one of the two entries dropped from the roster of the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival last month.

"Larombata" was eliminated after Dela Cruz failed to submit the final copy on May 30, the deadline set by the festival organizing committee. The director, who was touring Europe at the time of the festival, said problems with animators caused his team's failure to submit the film on time.

In his meeting with the festival's organizing committee last week, Dela Cruz said the Orgcom allowed him to finish the filming of "Larombata" using the P500,000 Cinemalaya seed grant. The Orgcom also expressed interest in helping him secure additional funding.

"There is no definite timetable for 'Larombata.' I think it will be taken care of next year," said Dela Cruz in a phone interview on Thursday. "I want to redo everything. I don't want a project done in haste, certainly not with this film and the work required here."

"Larombata" is the story of Kulas, a boy who runs away from home and ends up in the kingdom of lost toys, the world of Larombata. In order to save Larombata, Kulas must rescue the *diwata* of the kingdom from the clutches of the evil *aswang*.

"My vision for the movie has changed," Dela Cruz said. "I want it to be more organic. Originally, I wanted to integrate footage of (former child star) Niño Muhlach, but I found that too taxing. I wasn't happy with the end product."

More exposure

Since June, Dela Cruz's other works have been showcased in different film festivals abroad. His short film "Our Daily Bread," shown in Brooklyn, New York, a month before, was featured at the 42nd Pesaro Film Festival in Italy, along with "Goodbye My Shooting Star." His "Lata at Tsinelas" was screened as part of the World Cup festivities in Berlin.

Last month, another indie filmmaker, Raya Martin, was awarded the Premio Lino Micciché Award of the competition section in Pesaro for his short film "Maicling Pelicula Nang Ysang Indion Nacional." The Filipino film tied with the German film "Longing" by director Valeska Grisebach.

Meanwhile, Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador" has been officially invited to the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 7 to 16 and to the Vancouver International Film Festival on Sept. 28 to Oct. 13, according to its producer Joji Alonso of MLR Films.

Stars 'dance' on ice in 'Skating with Celebrities'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR TWO TUESDAYS NOW, we've been viewing "Skating with Celebrities" at 10 p.m. Tuesdays on the 2nd Avenue channel. We've had such a good time watching the new reality challenge that we urge you to enjoy in the coming weeks as well.

We're all familiar with the celebrity dance tilts on TV. "Skating with Celebrities" ups the ante in terms of difficulty by requiring stars and starlets to dance—while skating on ice!

This is so difficult to do, that the celebrities practice for one whole month! This is much more than the work stars put into celebrity dance challenges.

To ease the pressure on the celebrities a bit, they are given skating partners who are champions on the national and international levels.

Famous former champions like Nancy Kerrigan make sure that their celebrity partners are well-trained, and put through their paces many times in practice sessions before they finally unveil their acts on TV.

Adding to the excitement of the competition is the incremental degree of difficulty that it requires its contestants to meet. Each week, the bar is raised in terms of fancy moves that the skaters must execute on ice, and if they fail to comply, their scores are reduced.

The danger, of course, is that the requirements get to be so tough that some skaters fumble. That's what happened last Tuesday, when a celebrity fell while executing a requisite fancy move.

The gaffe proved to be fatal for his team, which ended up with the lowest score, and was thus summarily eliminated from the competition.

Another stressful factor in the tilt is the tough stance taken by some of the jurors. Dorothy Hammill tends to be kind, but the two other judges, especially the older curmudgeon, can be nasty, giving Simon Cowell a run for his bilious outbursts.

The comments can get to be so harsh, that some of the contestants come close to tears or rage. But they're professional enough not to throw a tantrum, and the criticism does keep them on their twinkle toes.

To date, the six original teams have been cut down to five. Tune in next Tuesday to see who will meet the judges' exacting standards—and survive their coolly objective verdict.

'Train Collision'

National Geographic Channel's "Crash Scene Investigation" airs "Train Collision" tonight at 9. The show investigates why a freight train with over 100 fully loaded cars collided with the Super Continental passenger train at 96 kph in 1986 outside Hinton, Canada.

The investigation exposed appalling everyday practices of the train conductors and crews, forcing managements around the world to redefine railway safety standards.

Other telecasts: "Runway Train" at 10 p.m. on Aug. 22 and "Greek Ferry Disaster" at 10 p.m. on Aug. 29.

'Red Box Karaoke'

Red Box is one of the hottest sing-along joints in Metro Manila. Located at Greenbelt, Makati, it has the latest in videoke equipment, and the best sounds, some of which have been compiled in collaboration with Viva Records in the "Red Hot OPM" album.

Cuts inside "Before I Let You Go" by Freestyle," "Ikaw" by Sharon Cuneta, "Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala," by Ogie Alcasid, "Pangako" by Regine Velasquez, and "Forever's Not Enough" by Sarah Geronimo.

New album

Cueshe launched its sophomore album, "Back to Me," on "SOP" last Aug. 13, and the album will hit stores tomorrow. Early buyers of the album will be given a card that entitles them to a free pass to the band's grand album launch at Robinson's Galleria Movieworld 5 today. The 10 new tracks in "Back to Me" were all written by the band members themselves.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ANT BULLY G 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55
CLICK PG13 1:10.3:30,5:50,8:10
STORM BREAKER PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:10
SUKOB PG13 1:15,3:25,5:35,7:45
THE BREAK-UP R13 2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
MIAMI VICE R13 1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10

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MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY

SHANG CINEPLEX
① CLICK MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5.00, 7.30, 10:00
② ANT BULLY MTRCB. GP 1.00, 3.15, 5.30.7.45.10:00
③ SUKOB MTRCB PG-13 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10:00
④ MIAMI VICE MTRCB. R-13 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00
PREMIERE THEATRE STORMBREAKER MTRCB PG-13 12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
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Shang Cineplex MONDAYS AND TUESDAY SPECIALS are back!
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99 for Cinemas 1-4 , P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
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PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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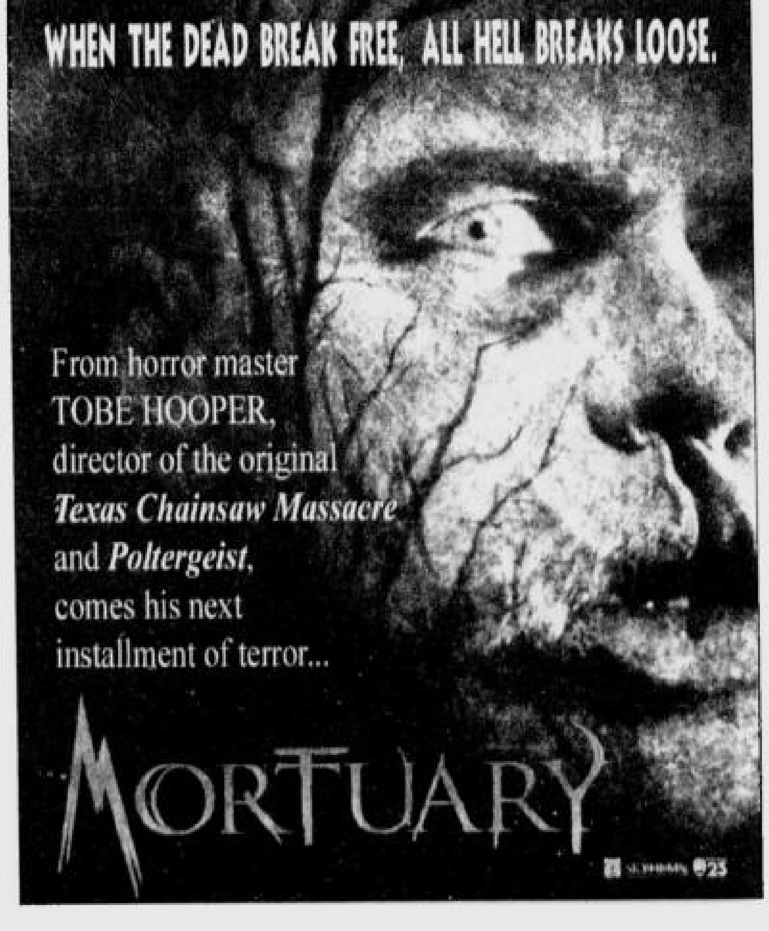
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CLICK 11:40 , 2:20 , 5:00 7:40 , 10:20 PG-13
CINEMA 4 MIAMI VICE 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 R-13
CINEMA 5 CLICK 11:05 , 1:50 , 4:30 7:10 , 9:50 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
AUG. 17,18,24,25 & 31 GARY V. 8:00PM
AUG. 26 , 2006 NONOY ZUNIGA 8:00PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO , CLASSICO 8:00PM
AUG. 19 , 2006 PRIME COUNSEL 9:00PM
AUG. 24-26 , 2006 DAVID POMERANZ 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635



OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING R-13
WHEN THE DEAD BREAK FREE, ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.
From horror master TOBE HOOPER, director of the original *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and *Poltergeist*, comes his next installment of terror...
MORTUARY

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
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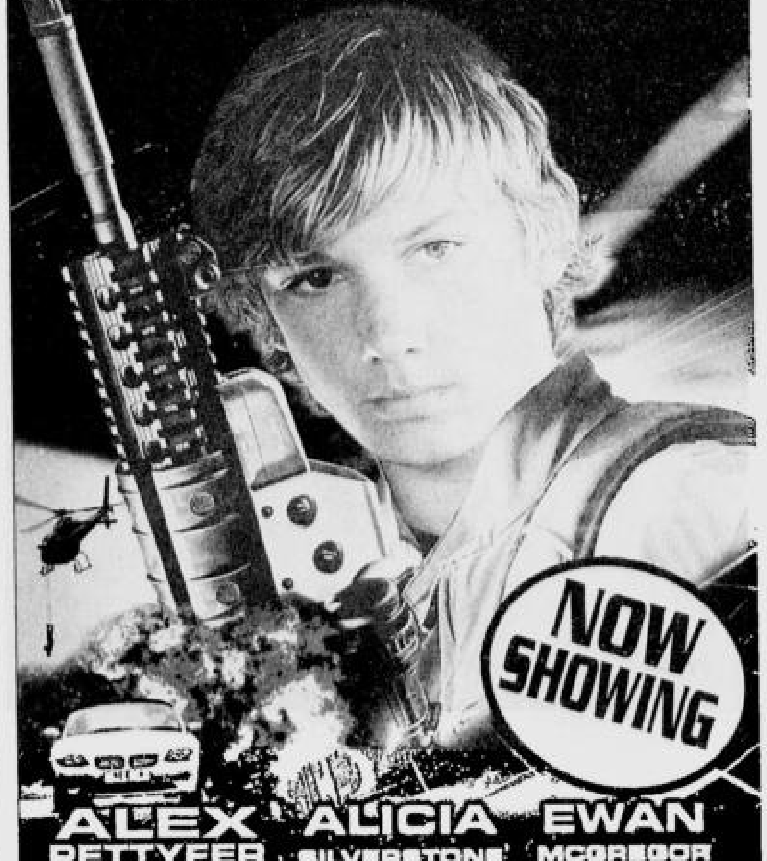
For inquiries, call 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 STORM BREAKER 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
2 CLICK 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 PG-13
3 MIAMI VICE 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10 R-13
4 SUKOB 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 PG-13

OPENS TOMORROW
Jeffrey Jetunan's direction was "excellent" and "his best to date." His direction was unobtrusive but very strong. The film is shot almost as a documentary." "He took the hardest way of directing and yet he succeeds!"
The acting is "excellent and is totoong-totoo."
"...the acting is extreme well done by all. It seemed as if they were not actors at all."
The screenplay was "very good" or even "excellent" and "great." "The storytelling is in the neorealist style. Research is unbelievably accurate." "Maganda ang screenplay... hyper-realistic and colorful."
"... the best I have seen this year. Pasintabi silang lahat!"
"All aspects of the film are commendable!"
The cinematography was "great" and "amazing." The scenes covered with the hand-held camera were noteworthy. "The long takes are incredible!" The camerawork was "raw" and sensitive." "The limitations of digital filmmaking are obvious... but they don't seem to matter here."
"We get a new understanding of the umbilical cord tying the poor to jueteng. For these shanty dwellers, jueteng is neither illegal or immoral. It is just a normal part of their life. Jetunan is neither judgmental nor didactic nor condescending in his story-telling... just matter-of-fact, straightforward and unsentimental."
CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD GRADED A
BEST FILM BEST ACTRESS FIPRESCI Jury Prize BEST FILM – 8th Osaka Cine Fan Festival of Asian Cinema
FIPRESCI Jury Prize BEST FILM – 28th Moscow International Film Festival
50th London Film Festival, 31st Toronto International Film Festival, 11th Pusan International Film Festival, 26th Hawaii International Film Festival, 30th Sao Paulo International Film Festival, 25th Vancouver International Film Festival, 27th Thessaloniki International Film Festival, 33rd Brussels Independent Film Festival, 5th Mumbai Asian Film Festival, 7th Rome Asiatica Film Mediale, 2nd Antalya Eurasian Film Festival – OFFICIAL SELECTION
MLR Films presents GINA PAREÑO
JUETENG KUBRADOR
R-13
a film by JEFFREY JETURIAN



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MOVIE GUIDE
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CINEPLEX
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE
PREMIERE STORMBREAKER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

starmall EDSA SHAW (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK
5 STORMBREAKER

metropolis star mall www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433094
1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2

THEATRES
1 WOLF CREEK
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 SUKOB

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 SUKOB
2 CHAOS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMAS (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 STORMBREAKER
2 MIAMI VICE
3 ANT BULLY
4 CLICK
5 R. V.
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
7 SUKOB
8 JUST MY LUCK
9 THE BREAK UP
10 SUKOB

Blue Wave MALL MARIKINA Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 SUKOB
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CLICK
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 MIAMI VICE
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 STORMBREAKER
5 WILD ORCHID-2

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 SUKOB
3 TAMARA
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SUKOB
2 STORMBREAKER
3 ANT BULLY

Center Mall Cinema Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 BANDIDAS

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBEAN-2
2 LAKE HOUSE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687 6963 or 72
1 STORMBREAKER
2 CLICK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THE DARK
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 RESERVED
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 THE DARK
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 CHAOS
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 AMERICAN SOLDIER
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 NACHO LIBRE

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUSE-3

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 CHAOS
2 ISLA ASUL
3 NENA INOSENTE
4 HOUSE OF FURY

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SUKOB
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 CLICK
4 THE DARK
5 BANDIDAS

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DOMINO
2 SUKOB
3 CHAOS
4 CLICK

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 STORMBREAKER
2 PARAISO SA GUBAT

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

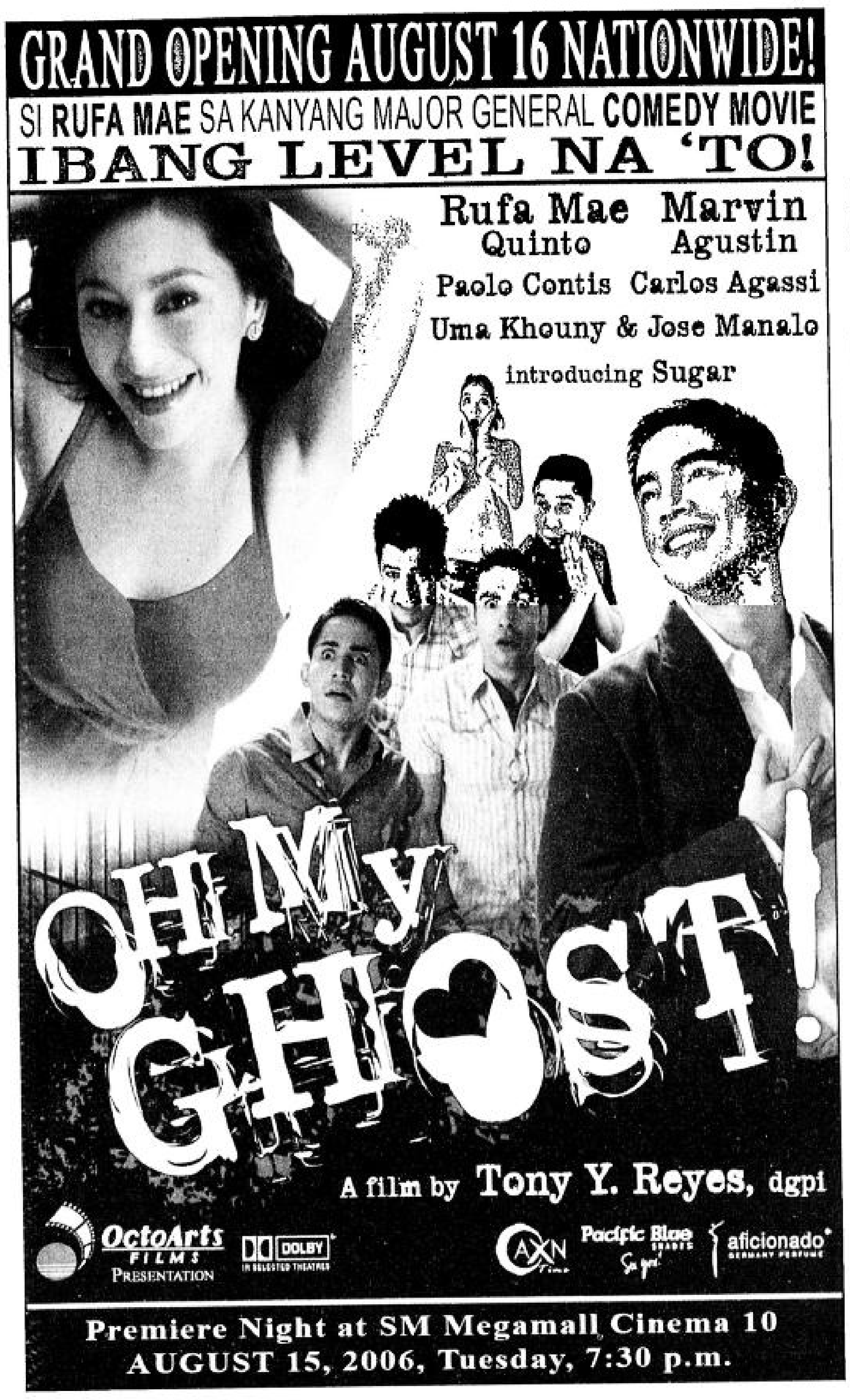
The producers say EB Babes underwent not only dance training but also workshops in personality development and acting

FROM left, Kim, Belle, Joy, Mae and Saida

PHOTOS BY NINI VALERA

MERGENE and Mae

SAIDA and Madel


GRAND OPENING AUGUST 16 NATIONWIDE!
SI RUFA MAE SA KANYANG MAJOR GENERAL COMEDY MOVIE
IBANG LEVEL NA 'TO!
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Marvin Agustin
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Carlos Agassi
Uma Khouny & Jose Manalo
introducing Sugar
OH My GHOST!
A film by Tony Y. Reyes, dgpi
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Pacific Blue
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CATCH WHO WILL BE THE NEXT IDOL
PG-13
Hugh GRANT
Dennis QUAID
Mandy MOORE
Willem DAFOE
American DREAMZ
IN THEATERS TOMORROW
United International Pictures
UNIVERSAL

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

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THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MIAMI VICE	2 CLICK	3 STORMBREAKER	4 SUKOB
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SUKOB	2 MIAMI VICE	3 THX CLICK 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 JUST MY LCUK	5 FIERCE PEOPLE	6 ANT BULLY	7 STORMBREAKER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SUKOB	2 CLICK		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX CLICK 2:20, 4:35, 6:0, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE ANT BULLY 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 SUKOB 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FIERCE PEOPLE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MIAMI VICE 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX CLICK	2 MIAMI VICE		
	3 SUKOB	4 ANT BULLY	5 STORMBREAKER	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 CLICK	2 JUST MY LUCK	3 THE BREAK-UP	4 WOLF CREEK
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 CLICK	2 STORMBREAKER		
	3 ANT BULLY	4 SUKOB	5 MIAMI VICE	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Ansons Exhibit August 7 to 22, 2006	Cirque Imago August 18 to 20
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
5th Philippines Robotics Olympiad August 26, 2006	PBA Draft August 20, 2006

GREENBELT
Jazz Nights at GB 2
August 16, 23 & 30, 2006

Greenbelt 1 Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents
Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR.
at REP's Globe Theater - Aug. 12, 20, 26, Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Ode To The Pasig River
June 27 to August 27, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

GOETHE-INSTITUT MANILA

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

The 3rd German Silent Film Festival
presents
The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari
with music by
Radioactive Sago Project
on Tuesday, August 15, 2006,
at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1, 8:00 PM

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE GREENBELT

Ayala Malls
Jazz Nights
with PIDO
at Greenbelt 2
August 16 & 30, 2006
7:30 p.m.
with JINKY VIDAL of FREESTYLE
at Greenbelt 2
August 9 & 23, 2006
7:30 p.m.
105.1
GREENBELT

Young, sexy and chasing same dream

ANGEL and Belle

Text and photos by Nini Valera

THEY'RE YOUNG, they're sexy, and they wanna be stars.

From hundreds of pretty young girls, 10 survived what the longest-running noontime show "Eat Bulaga," aired over GMA 7, has dubbed as the first reality-based talent search for the show's dancers.

Last week, these girls, now known as the EB Babes, were presented to entertainment writers at Klownz in Quezon City.

"We were looking for girls who had all-around talent—not just dancers," said Malou Choa-Fagar, executive vice president of Television and Production Exponent (TAPE), which produces the noontime show. "We wanted girls who could sing and even act. We need them to act for our Holy Week specials."

The total talent package notwithstanding, the EB Babes will primarily serve as back-up dancers in the opening and closing credits of the show, as well as in its game show portion. They will also rev up the action for, and be part of, the stunts that the hosts pull off to spice up the show.

The EB Babes are replacing the Sex Bombs, who left the show last March over an issue concerning one of the dancers. Last April, "Eat Bulaga" launched the nationwide search. The EB Babes were officially launched on show last Saturday.

The search, Fagar explained, was not limited to pretty faces and skinny bodies. The finalists had to undergo five weeks of grueling workshops before the final 10 were chosen.

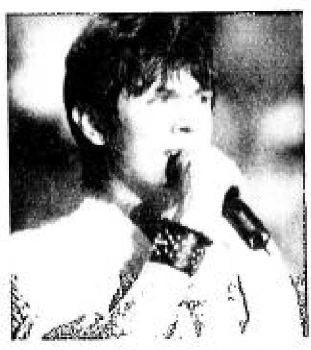
They were given personality development classes, courtesy of one-time Bb. Pilipinas Nina Ricci-Agarao, stunt sessions supervised by Ronnie Ricketts and acting workshops conducted by Gina Alajar. Veteran choreographers Maribeth Bichara and Geleen Eugenio gave the dance classes, which included break dancing, jazz and belly dancing.

In the Q&A portion during the press launch, the girls echoed the same refrain: "We wanna be discovered as stars. We wanna show our talent."

"It's too early to say if any of them will become 'big,'" Fagar noted. "But that's not far-fetched."

The EB Babes had dropped out of school to concentrate on the job. Each of received a cash prize of P200,000—a fortune to some of them—and an P800,000 contract with TAPE.

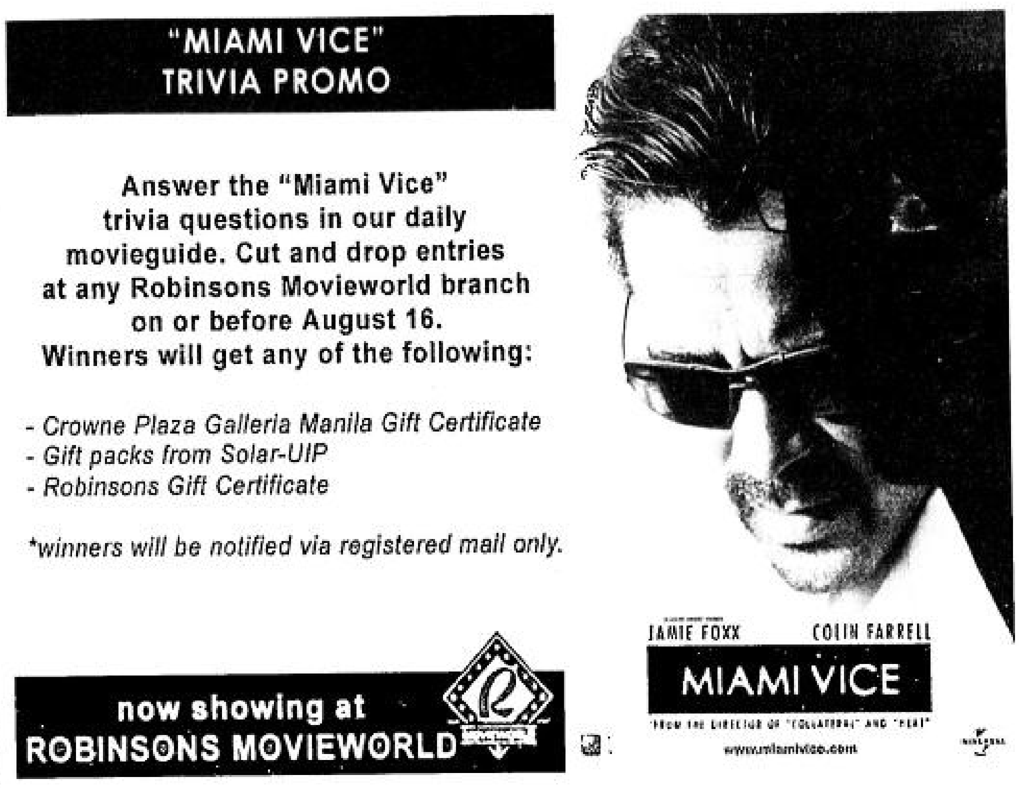
Triple treat with Mig, The Dawn



SHOW TIME

IT'S A TRIPLE TREAT tonight at the INXS' "Switched On" concert at the Araneta Coliseum, with Mig Ayesa (third placer in last year's global talent search for the Aussie band's new front man) as guest singer, and with The Dawn opening the show.

It is INXS' first visit to the Philippines, and the initial stop in the Asian leg of its current world tour.


"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

Answer the "Miami Vice" trivia questions in our daily movieguide. Cut and drop entries at any Robinsons Movieworld branch on or before August 16. Winners will get any of the following:

- *Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila Gift Certificate*
- *Gift packs from Solar-UIP*
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**winners will be notified via registered mail only.*

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ANT BULLY 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	MIAMI VICE 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50	THE BREAK - UP 6:40 / 9:00	CLICK 2:10 / 4:30 / 6:50 / 9:10

ALIMALL 5

STORMBREAKER 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	CLICK 1:15 / 3:35 / 5:55 / 8:15	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 R3 / 2:20 / 5:20 / 8:20
SUKOB 12:10 R2 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30	MIAMI VICE 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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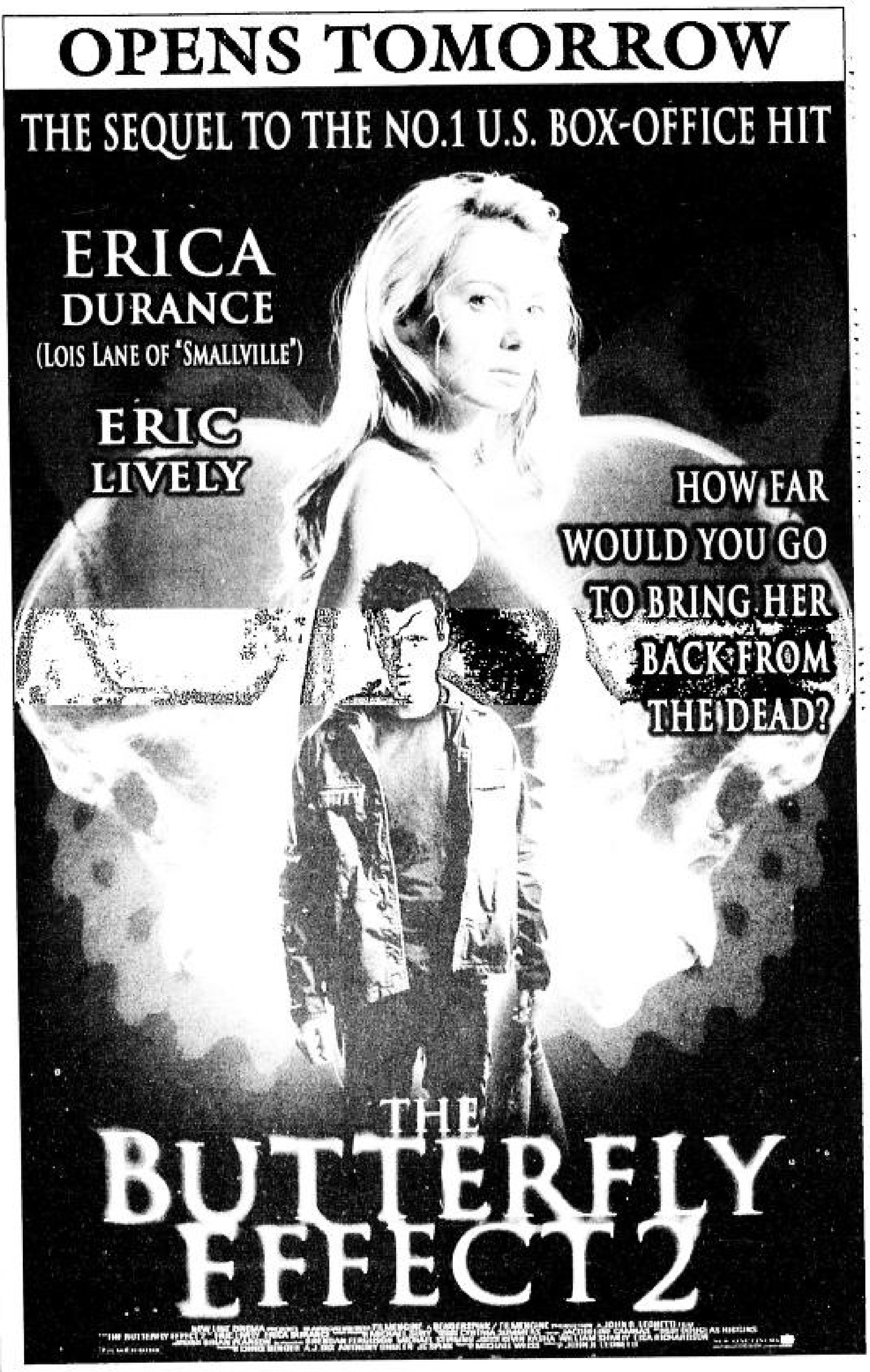
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(LOIS LANE OF "SMALLVILLE")
ERIC LIVELY
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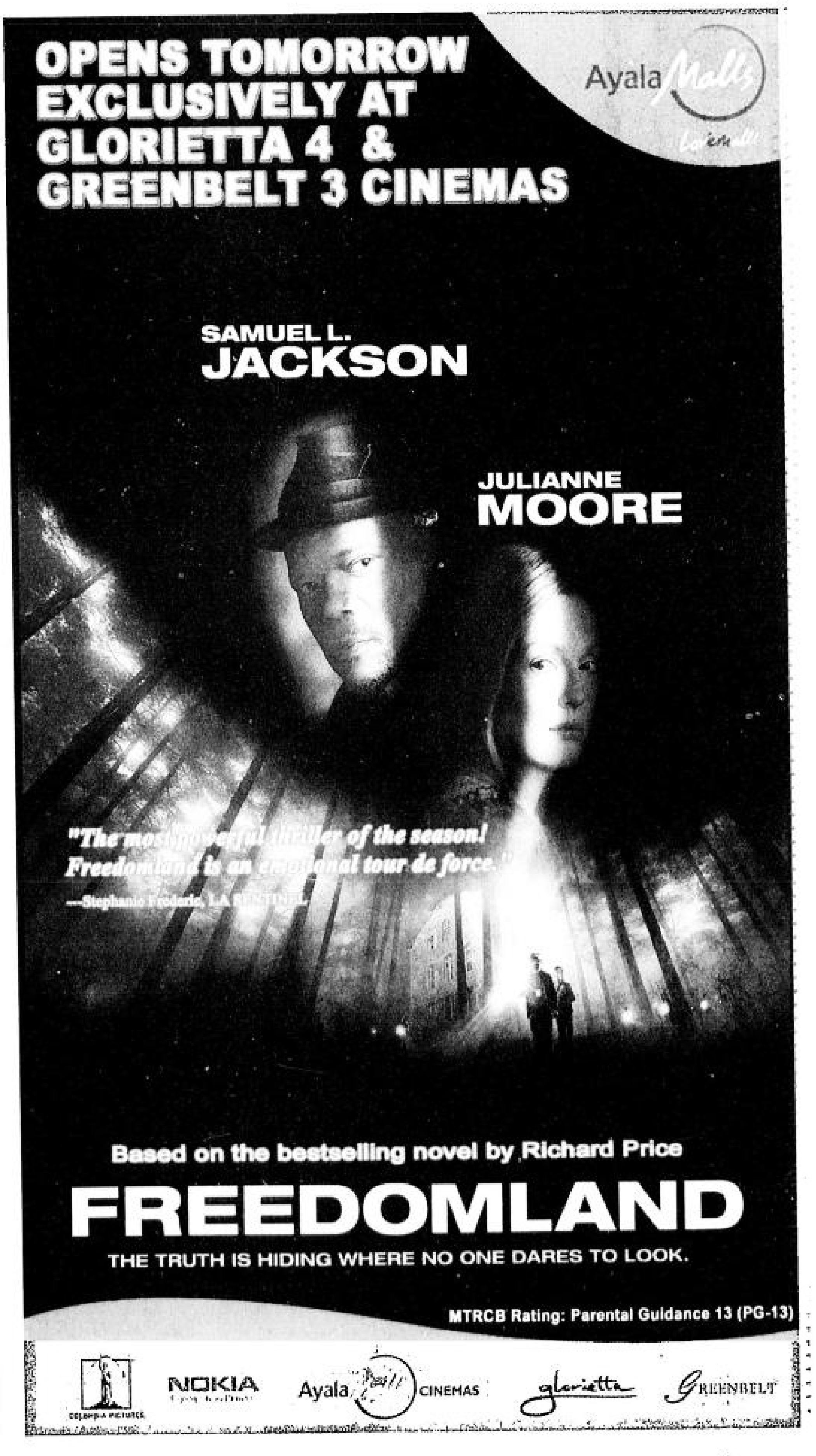
THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2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RP's first multimedia star

Photos by Roger Carpio

TITA, eldest of six siblings, is shown here with (from left) Rafael, mom Feliza, Louie, Manuel, dad Miguel and Leopoldo.

Tita Muñoz says she was 'embarrassed' about being dubbed 'Elizabeth Taylor of the Philippines'

AT A poetry reading in the 1970s

SUBJECT of a photo study by Romy Vitug

A BEACH break in Camiguin

IN Cambodia, right, attending a film festival with Miss International 1964 Gemma Cruz, center

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

YESTERDAY

VETERAN STAR TITA MUÑOZ WAS IN the middle of a battery of medical tests, including a colonoscopy, and yet she was as feisty as ever, recounting the glory days as if they were unfolding on a silver screen in front of her.

How best to summarize a multifaceted life like hers—when it seems she has had several incarnations in this lifetime alone?

In a lot of ways, she can be the country's first multimedia star, having conquered radio, stage and both the small and big screens.

Dubbed the Elizabeth Taylor *and* Jennifer Jones of the Philippines, she seemed destined for celebrity.

As a teener, Maria Teresa Sanchez Muñoz frequented movie sets, watching her idols Mila del Sol and Elsa Oria at work. "I went to St. James Academy, which was near the Sampaguita Studio," she said.

But Tita wasn't keen on becoming a movie star. "I didn't speak a word of Tagalog."

After World War II, 18-year-old Tita married an American, who took her to live in New York. "He was an officer, a navigator in the Air Force," she recalled.

It was an unhappy marriage, one that lasted only four years, during which she lost twin children who had been born prematurely.

"He was such a jealous man," Tita said. "I wanted to jump out of a running car when he refused to grant me a divorce. He agreed only after I promised to go back to the Philippines."

Back in Manila but jobless, the 22-year-old divorcee took stock of her skills. "I spoke better English than most people and I spent a lot of time listening to the radio in New York. Maybe radio was the best option, I thought. A cousin accompanied me to the newest radio station then, dzBB, owned by Bob Stewart."

There were a hundred people in the queue. Still, the Spanish *mestiza* was hired to replace Rose Bush as the new host of "Homemakers' Club of the Air."

"It was a two-hour morning show, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon," she said. "I became the new Mrs. Homemaker. My first talent fee was P100 a month. My mother said: That wouldn't even pay for the shoes you are wearing."

She assured her mother that the lowly job was just a stepping stone for brighter prospects. True enough, Tita received two offers after only month.

One was a radio job with mentor Vero Perfecto, "a legendary character."

From dzBB, she moved to dzPI, sister station of dzRH. "I hosted the 'Women's Club of the Air.' By then, I was earning P800 a month, a big sum in the 1950s."

Meanwhile, she had also become a Camay Girl.

Although she was already a radio star, she quit and willfully went back to school, at the Lyceum, where she finished AB History.

The new graduate was offered a teaching job. "For P5 an hour! On the radio, I was earning P50 a minute."

She eventually became the highest-paid radio talent, earning P75 a minute.

While she was on radio, the movies once again beckoned.

"The dzPI office was on the fourth floor of the Republic Building on Avenida. On the third floor was Kislap-Graphic. Whenever I was free, I hung out with my friend, entertainment editor Ernie Evora, at the magazine's office."

It was Ernie who convinced the reluctant Tita to try the movies.

Big-screen debut

In 1952, Tita made her big-screen debut in "Rosalinda," a romantic-musical set in the radio and recording worlds.

Produced by Philippine Artists Management, Tita's first movie co-starred Rodolfo Ruiz and launched her as the country's Elizabeth Taylor. "I wore my hair short like Liz Taylor's. But I was embarrassed by the title because I never considered myself a great beauty," she gasped.

She then moved to Sampaguita for the Pancho Magalona movie, "Kasaysayan ni Rudy Concepcion," in which she played Elsa Oria.

The freelancer proceeded to appear in a string of movies: National Artist Eddie Romero's "El Indio" (with Cesar Ramirez), "Teksas ang Manok na Nagsasalita" (with Linda Estrella) and "Tulisang Pugot" (with Fred Montilla).

But Tita was eyeing a new medium: television.

Ever the trailblazer, she took part in the first televised event, a party held at Antonio Quirino's home, aired on dzAQ TV.

"I was the first woman to appear on [local] television," she asserted. "I was also the first woman to become a production manager. Our big boss was Koko Trinidad and I worked in the TV station with Vero Perfecto, Gabby Tabuñar and Billy Logarta."

And then, the First Lady of television also made history with the first kissing scene on the boob tube. "It was with Ronald Remy. I picked him because he was neat."

Tita broke new ground with dramatic TV shows. "The most memorable was 'Sorry, Wrong Number,' a one-woman teleplay that was part of the 'Caltex Caravan' and directed by National Artist Gerry de Leon," she related. (Later, she became a regular on "Balintataw.")

She was also directed by De Leon in a local ("Lilet" in 1971) and international movie ("Mad Doctor of Blood Island" in 1968).

She made two international movies with another National Artist, Lamberto V. Avellana. "One was shot in Vietnam with Vic Silayan and the other one in India," she said.

Consulting the filmmaker's IMDb.com list and his son Lamberto Avellana Jr. yielded these titles "Destination: Vietnam" (1968) and "The Evil Within" (1970).

Tita said she thoroughly enjoyed her shoots abroad. "I brought home an *ao dai* and wore the Vietnamese dress to parties," she recalled.

With Miss International 1964 Gemma Cruz, Tita participated in the Cambodia Film Festival in the 1960s. "It was a big success. King Norodom Sihanouk was so happy, he invited us again the following year."

Brocka, Bernal

Back in Manila, she was directed by yet another National Artist, Lino Brocka, in the 1971 melodrama "Stardoom."

She looked back: "Lino was a fast worker, always prepared, and he spoke, machine-gun style—ratatatat."

She was directed by still another National Artist, Ishmael Bernal, in "Sugat sa Ugat" (1983) and "Pahiram ng Isang Umaga" (1989).

"I had known Ishmael for a long time. I used to do poetry readings in his bar, When It's a Grey November in Your Soul, in the early 1970s. I would meet friends in Indios Bravos and walk to Grey November."

She was good friends with theater directors Rolando Tinio and Jonas Sebastian and filmmakers Elwood Perez and Joey Gosiengfiao.

In the 1970s, she championed the theater troupe Sining Kambayoka, which was based at the Mindanao State University in Marawi.

All that running around, and jumping from one medium to another, took its toll. In the mid-1990s, she suffered a stroke. "I had just started writing a column for Mirror magazine when I fell ill."

She had fully recovered, when she slipped in the bathroom months later.

"My spine is studded with mini-fractures. After I broke my hip bone, I couldn't find the right house helper, so I stayed in a convalescent home run by the RVM nuns in Pansol, Laguna."

Ailment, however, didn't stop her from acting in the movie "Madrasta" in 1996 and on the TV show "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga" in 2002.

These days, she lives in her own condo unit in San Juan, where she entertains longtime pals Nestor Torre and Behn Cervantes with home-cooked meals—and anecdotes about her charmed, if a bit circuitous and colorful, journey through life.

Loving work and making love work

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

ALFRED VARGAS AND LJ REYES have finally come out in the open about their relationship. LJ was all aglow when I asked her about Alfred. "He's super sweet. Kahit walang occasion, he gives me flowers. What really touched me was when he invited my mom to dinner. They had a nice long talk about me. That's when I felt he's sincere and serious."

Alfred admits he's the jealous type. "I'm possessive but *nasa lugar naman*." Even if they are both so in love, their careers remain their priority. LJ and Alfred are one of the few show biz couples who love their work but also manage to make their love work.

Another child?

GINA Martinez of Manila Genesis called regarding an item here about their ward **Jericho Rosales** allegedly having another love child aside from Santino. "Echo swears he only has one son," said Gina.

He was man enough to admit he had sired a kid; why would he hide another one? Perhaps the parties insisting that Echo has an unrecognized child should come forward with a validated claim stub and proof of purchase?

Next 'Bakekang'

SOMEBODY close to **Tita Donna Villa** told me that when she and hubby *Direk* **Carlo Caparas** had a project with ABS-CBN, Kris Aquino asked if she could play "Bakekang" when *Direk's komiks* novel is made into a movie. Now GMA 7 is coming up with the TV serialization of the Pinoy classic tale about a woman born with a hideous face but whose feisty attitude made her a fighter.

Nora Aunor portrayed Bakekang in 1978. The *Kapuso* network is still deliberating who will be the next one. Heard that it's a toss-up between **Angel Locsin** and **Sunshine Dizon**. But wouldn't it be more interesting if they conducted a search for a true-to-life Bakekang and give her a major make-over in the series? That would be like a reality show within a telenovela!

Finger-pointing

IWA Moto was insinuating that "Starstruck" avenger **Jana Roxas** should have been the one suspended instead of her. Her comments about Jana getting wasted on the set all the way to Metrowalk were reeking with sarcasm. Why doesn't she clean up her act before pointing a finger at others?

Crying lady

RUFFA Mae Quinto broke down at the GMA studio after her interview on "Startalk." An insider says Peachy cried because she could no longer take the nasty comments about her relationship with **Erik Santos.** Rumors that he's gay refuse to die down. But their romance should not die just because of such talks.

I texted Peachy for her sentiments. She texted back: "I'm hurt for Erik. *Kawawa naman siya*. And *nahihiya ako sa* family *niya*. Erik said *ipagdasal na lang daw namin ang* detractors. *Matatapos din daw ito*." Knowing how deeply Peachy loves, no wound caused by intrigues is too deep not to heal. Live and let live! Love and let love, right *Diyosa* (That's how I call Ruffa Mae.)?

Westlife concert

VIVA Concerts, which produced the recent Manila concert of The Black Eyed Peas, is out to win the hearts of Pinoy concert goers with another slam-bang show when it brings the phenomenal boy band Westlife back to Manila on Sept. 4 at the Araneta Coliseum. For tickets, call 911-5555.

New albums

- "KaminAPO Muna" (Universal Records) is undoubtedly the much awaited album of 2006, with 18 songs from Apo Hiking Society's illustrious musical career performed by 15 leading Pinoy bands and three outstanding solo artists. It is truly one rare collection! Featured are Parokya Ni Edgar ("Pumapatak Ang Ulan"), Orange & Lemons ("Yakap Sa Dilim"), Kamikazee ("Do Bidoo") and **Kitchie Nadal** ("Pag-ibig"), to name a few.
- **Martin Nievera's** new album under EMI- Phils "Awit ng Puso" is a collection of 14 OPM love classics. It includes Apo's "When I Met You," **Zsa Zsa's** "Kahit Na," Sharon's "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan," and **Gary V's** "Kailangan Kita," among others. Also featured is "Kailangan Ko, Kailangan Mo," the Concert King's duet with **Regine Velazquez.**

For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

BUSINESS

BPI Express: New BPI Branches Take Banking to the Next Level

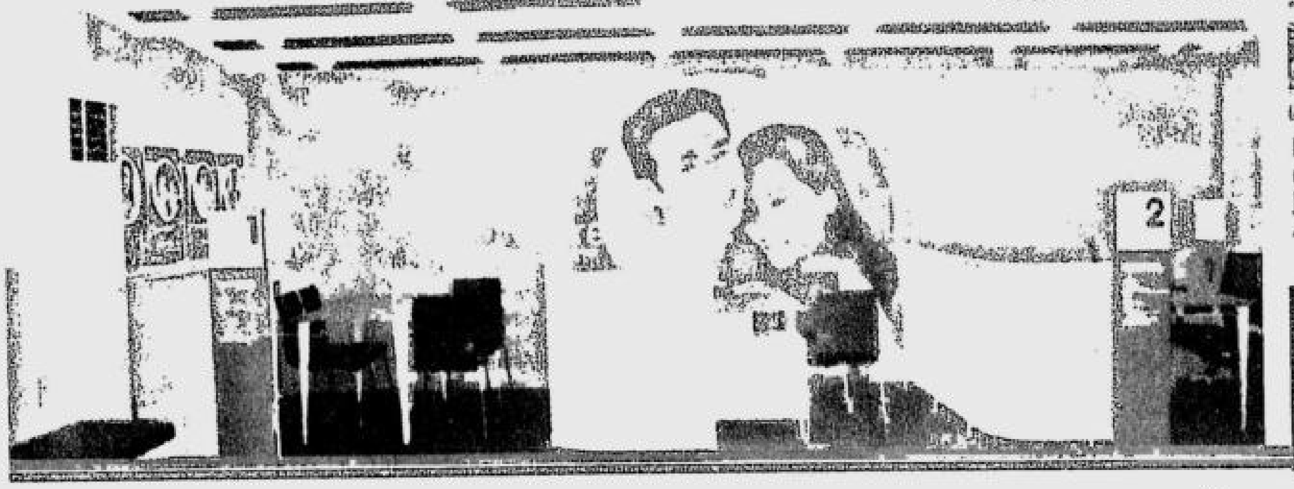
FOCUSING ON YOUR FUTURE.

It's understandable if you mistake it for a new trendy boutique. From the outside, its all-white façade provides a stark contrast versus nearby gray structures and multicolored signages, making the building stand out. As you move closer, you immediately notice a grand mural of a hip young couple, covering the entire back wall inside, so large that you can see it through the exterior glass panels. Inside, white is still the predominant color, with furniture and merchandising materials in reddish hues providing the accent. The atmosphere is bright, crisp and clean, thanks to ultra-modern lighting fixtures that are creatively embedded into the ceiling panels. Overall, the mood is efficient but warm, modern but inviting, trendy yet professional.

Seeing the words "BPI Express" on the building façade can make you do a double take and check if you had read the signage right. After all, this is not your ordinary BPI branch. It is BPI's newest branch model.

LEVEL/F5

PARTICIPANTS in the ribbon-cutting ceremony included (from left) Parañaque Mayor Hon. Florencio M. Bernabe, Jr.; Councilor Jose Enrico Golez; and BPI President Aurelio R. Montinola III.



BPI EXPRESS Sales Counselor Judy D. Perez of BPI Express Sucat, Parañaque branch; Councilor Jose Enrico Golez; Mayor of Parañaque Hon. Florencio M. Bernabe, Jr.; commercial model/singer Julia Duncan; Well-known media personality Cito Beltran; BPI Senior Vice President Josephine Ocampo; BPI Senior Vice President Imelda Trillo; Celebrity hosts Paolo Abrera and Angel Jacob; and renowned fashion designer Rhett Eala.

BPI Express launch

In celebration of its 155th anniversary, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) recently launched one of its landmark initiatives, the BPI Express. BPI Express is a radically new idea in branch banking, which puts a premium in convenience. Smaller than standard branches, but bigger than kiosks, BPI Express is equipped with more comprehensive electronic banking facilities.

The new concept was officially launched on Aug. 8 at its branch in Sucat, Parañaque in an urbane white-washed affair that spelled I-N-N-O-V-A-T-I-O-N. Hosted by lifestyle celebri-

LAUNCH/F5

FOCUSING ON YOUR FUTURE.

On our 155th year, we're fulfilling your idea of next century banking. Today.

BPI understands your aspiration for a better life ahead.
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Your dream to secure your family's future, wherever you may be.
Your ambition to start your very own livelihood soon,
or to build your business even further.

On our 155th anniversary, we renew our commitment
to take you closer to your goals. With unique products, creative
options for wealth management, and cutting-edge technology.
And with a team of dedicated professionals giving you expert
financial advice and the highest standards of customer service.

All these only from the bank that shares your ideals and optimism
for a better future – one that will come to you sooner than you think.

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Promo period is from August 1 to 31, 2006

Additionally, all placements in BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank Time Deposits entitle you to join BPI's Save Up, Move Up promo. See flyers for details. Promo period March 1 to September 30, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0420, Series of 2006.

Keep using your BPI cards to make purchases and get a chance to win in style!

3 top BPI Express Cash Card billers for the month of August will take home an Apple iPod MP3 (1GB)

Promo period is from August 1 to 31, 2006

1 BPI Express Payment System user will be given a roundtrip travel package for two (2) to Bangkok, plus, ₱10,000 cash credit.

There will also be 154 winners of exciting prizes like pillows, traveling bags and gift certificates.

Promo period is from August 1 to October 31, 2006.

Avail of a BPI Family Savings Bank loan and enjoy discounts and rebates!

Apply for a housing loan – including Property Equity Loan – auto loan, or Grow Your SME Business Loan and get a 0.155% discount on all published rates. Your BFSB Property Equity Credit Line will get you a ₱1,550 rebate for every ₱1,550,000 increment in your Average Loan Ledger Balance.

Promo period is from August 1 to 31, 2006

Invest with BPI and receive cash prizes!

15 BPI Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF) holders and 155 BPI UITF investors will get a chance to win ₱15,500 and ₱1,550 cash each, respectively.

Promo period is from August 1 to 31, 2006

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3771, Series of 2006.

These perks are bound to be yours as well!

Get a chance to win SM Gift Certificates for successful insurance referrals!

155 successful insurance referrals will win SM Gift Certificates worth ₱3,000 each

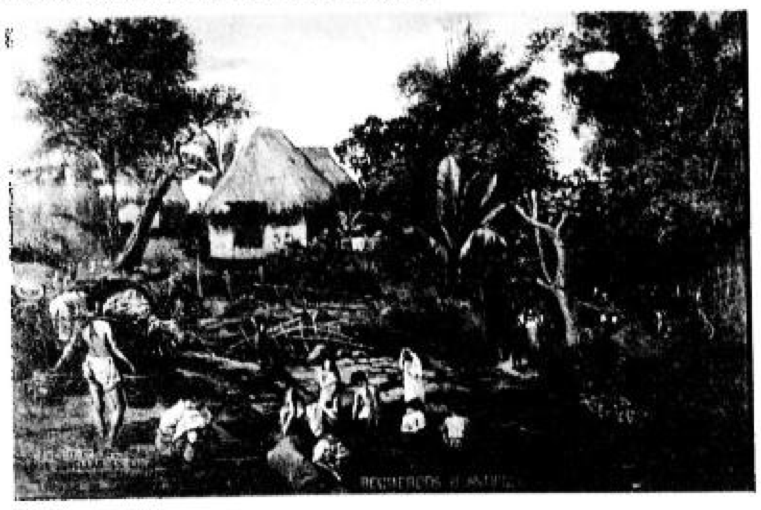
Make corporate transactions through BPI and claim the ultimate office machine!

30 corporations with BIR and SSS transactions thru BPI's ExpressLink will get a chance to own one of four ultra-modern office equipment or a Sodexho gift certificate worth ₱5,000.

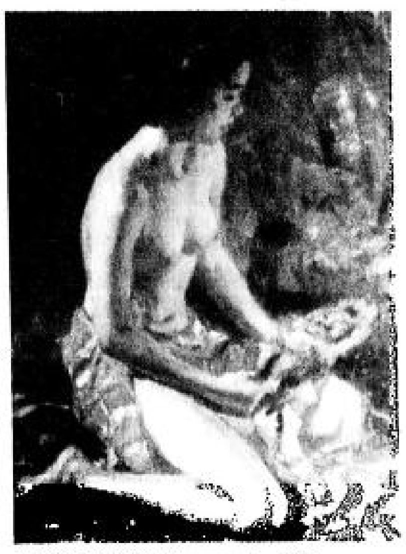
1+55: Perspectives in Corporate Art Patronage

An Exhibit of BPI and BSP Art Collections

BPI 155
FOCUSING ON YOUR FUTURE.


FELIX Martinez, 'Recuerdos de Antipolo'

ARTURO Luz, 'Anito'


FERNANDO Amorsolo, 'The Offering'

By Victoria T. Herrera

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) celebrates its 155th anniversary with an exhibition featuring selections from its collection of Philippine art. Entitled "1+55: Perspectives in Corporate Art Patronage", the exhibit is also highlighted with works from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) art collection. Over 200 paintings, sculptures and fine prints by 155 artists are featured, dating from the late 19th century to the present. This historical collaboration between BPI and BSP is made possible in cooperation with the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

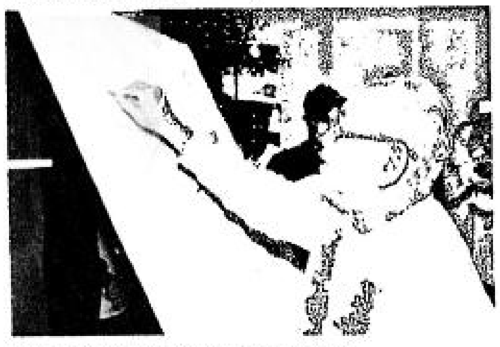
The exhibition is organized into four sections relating to different aspects of the two corporate collections. The themes include the role of portraits as part of constructing a corporate history; art in the Spanish and American colonial periods; representation of National Artists in the collections; and works representing the last half of the 20th century.

Featured artists include masters from the colonial period such as Juan Luna, Felix Resurreccion-Hidalgo, Fabian Dela Rosa, Teodoro Buenaventura, Ramon Peralta, Jorge Pineda, and Pablo Amorsolo;

PERSPECTIVE/ F3

NATIONAL Artist for Painting Arturo Luz

NATIONAL Artist for Visual Arts Benedicto Reyes Cabrera (Bencab)


NATIONAL Artist for Sculpture Napoleon Abueva

BPI ASSET MANAGEMENT

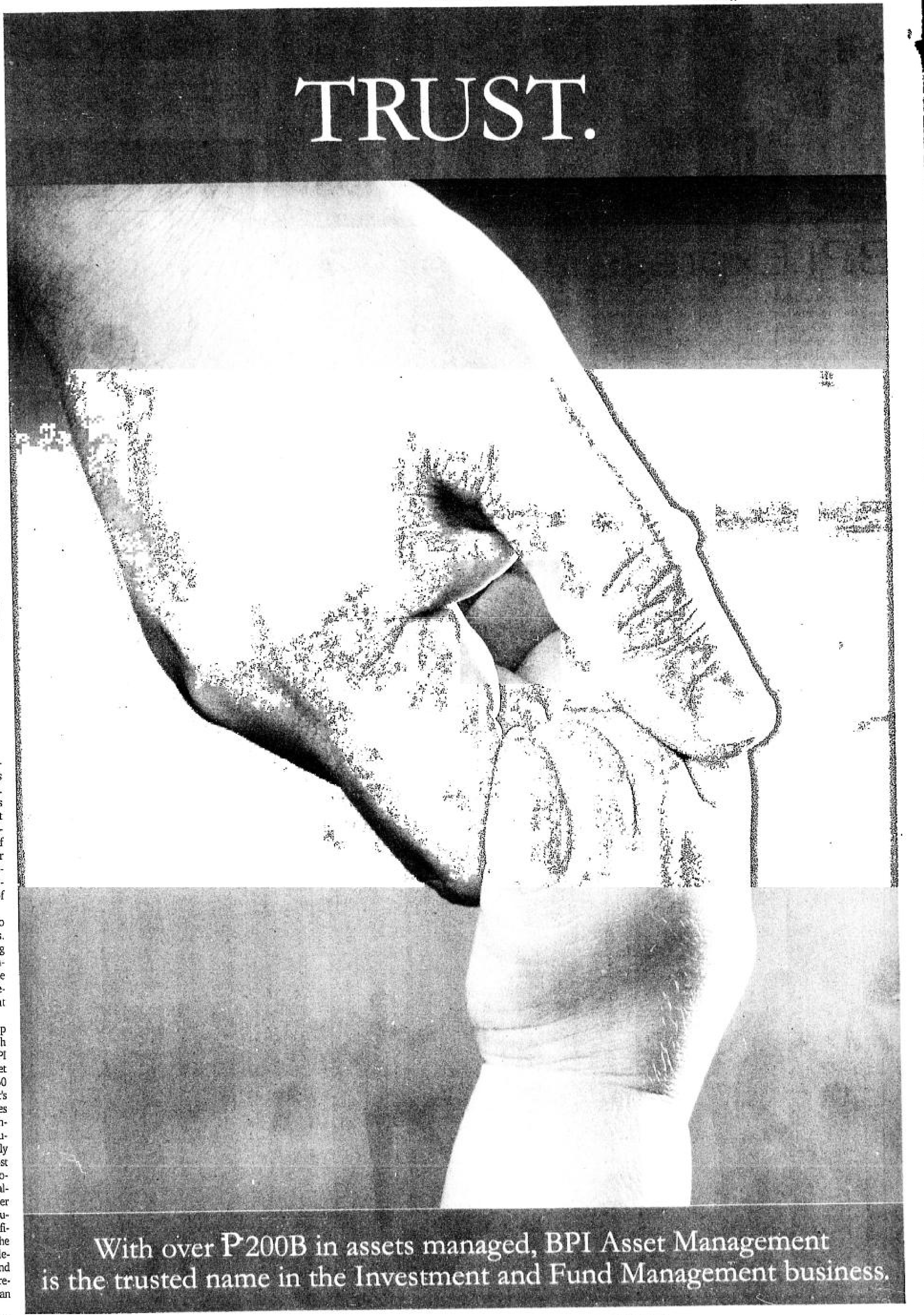
Widens lead in Trust industry, Taps OFW market through BPI OFW Savings Fund

Trust industry leader BPI Asset Management maintained its No.1 position with over PhP240Bn in assets under management for the second quarter of 2006. With its exemplary track record of managing funds over the years, it further widened its lead over the next competitor bank by more than 20%. It currently manages the largest assets under the core businesses of trust and fiduciary arrangement and investment or fund management accounts. It is determined to remain as the forerunner in the industry through revolutionary products that addresses the specific needs of the investors.

BPI Asset Management attributes its success to years of experience which has outlived generations. Its expertise is backed by 155 years of managing money wisely and by a reputation of stability and integrity. Even during uncertain times, investors have maintained their confidence in BPI Asset Management for its sound investment values and prudent investment strategies.

The BPI Investment Funds remain to be the top choice of retail investors, weathering through rough market climates during the second quarter. The BPI Short Term UITF is among the leading money market fund earning its investors with 7.56% over the past 360 days as of August 9, 2006. BPI Asset Management's bond funds, BPI Premium UITF and ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund, are the best choice for long-term investors seeking the widest diversification in peso instruments with returns of 9.55% and 13.09%, respectively for the same period. Bond funds remain to be the most effective mode of creating wealth because bonds provide a steady source of interest income which intrinsically and gradually adds to the Fund's net asset value over time. Moreover, active fund strategies can seek opportunities for bond price appreciation which can add significant return potential while only modestly changing the risk profile of the fund. BPI likewise offers dollar-denominated funds such as the BPI Global Philippine Fund and BPI Global Equity Fund providing year on year returns of 5.42% and 4.20%, respectively, higher than what a traditional investment would normally earn.

Aware of the growing viable market of overseas Filipino workers, BPI Asset Management forges ahead by offering the BPI OFW Savings Fund which is an exclusive arrangement established in partnership with manning and recruitment agencies which gain naming rights to the fund. The fund encourages forced savings among OFWs deployed abroad as well as the administration staff based in the country. The fund may be customized to include more protection to participants by adding insurance benefits and providing more options for investment outlets. This is BPI Asset Management's way of partnering with manning agencies and showing concrete support in increasing the savings rate of the economy. The Magsaysay Seafarers Fund is the first of this kind of arrangement.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1+55:
Perspectives in Corporate Art Patronage

From page F2

National Artists Fernando Amorsolo, Victorio Edades, HR Ocampo, Vicente Manansala, Ang Kiukok, Cesar Legaspi, Jerry Navarro, Arturo Luz, Jose Joya and Bencab. A portion of the exhibition covers the last half of the 20th century showing the variety of styles in figurative and abstract art. Among the artists included in this section are Lyd Arguilla, Romeo Tabuena, Ramon Estella, Roberto Chabet, Romulo Olazo, Antonio Austria, Florencio Concepcion, Malang, Lao Lianben, Rod Paras-Perez, Pandy Aviado, Raul Isidro, Ramon Orlina, Mona Santos, Soler Santos, Ting Ping Lay, Danny Dalena, Impy Pilapil, Gerry Tan and Saudi Ahmad.

The Corporate Patron as Collector

The corporation as collector is perhaps the most visible role it has taken in support for the arts. Purchase of paintings and sculptures is initially triggered by the construction of a new building or a transfer to a newly leased space. Compared to paintings, only few have considered purchasing or commissioning large-scale sculptures. More often, interior designers are given the task to select artworks that will grace the interiors of offices and public access areas such as lobbies and hallways. Choices then may not necessarily be based on aesthetic value. Artworks then were viewed as part of office furnishings. They were even tagged with the same "Property No." series. From a historical perspective though, this practical set up is a reflection of developments in the art market.

At the height of the art boom in Manila in the 1970s until the mid-1980s, several commercial galleries and art dealers benefited in the growth in demand for art. They worked in tandem with interior designers and architects and ensured that art purchases were incorporated in the project expense. Government policies related to foreign investments, businesses and tourism created an environment that led to an increased demand and production in art. New hotels were constructed and corporate headquarters were furnished or refurbished. These projects, along with the growth in private art collecting then, created a high demand for visual artists, galleries, and art dealers.

Banking and Corporate Art Collecting

Works of art are valued for their historical and aesthetic significance. From a banker's point of view, they are also taken as goods with economic value, that is, as investments. Art, however, is also a unique commodity such that its consumption and the returns gained from it are not like any other commodity. At first glance they may be just mere decorations. But as investments, art has high returns through the "daily visual pleasure" experienced within the workplace. Office spaces decorated with works of art provide a constructive distraction from the rigors of clerical and administrative work. And for those knowledgeable in art, this visual pleasure is further enhanced by the prestige attached to the names of artists represented in the collection.

A corporate collection is also designed to serve as an instrument of communication, internally and externally. Supporting contemporary and upcoming artists is associated with promoting innovativeness in the arts as well as in business practices. As in any investment decision, the returns can be unpredictable. Buying works of art by young artists is seen as a gamble but the risks taken by a corporate patron helps push the art market, a valuable function in promoting contemporary art.

Art Collecting and the Corporate Organization

Acquiring an art collection for a bank may take place in conditions different from that of a museum or an educational institution. But like any collecting endeavor, it is also a social process. It is influenced by factors both in the art world and within the corporate organization. The collection reflects prevailing styles and trends in the art market as well as the tastes and preferences of company executives. The latter is proven to be a crucial factor to the accumulation of these two corporate collections.

For non-cultural organizations like BPI and BSP, their acquisition policies and art programs were steered by top corporate heads who have a passion for art. Their collections grew through regular purchases and also as a result of fulfilling their respective corporate mandates. Artworks were received either as assets as part of a merger or as collateral from a financially distressed corporation. Thus, to some extent, the acquisition history of the BSP and BPI collections is also a reflection of their respective corporate histories.

Works of art in corporate collections may remain with them for a long time. Even long after they have stopped collecting, corporations still have the capacity to affect conditions in the art market and in artistic production. The notion of "corporate art" does not necessarily refer to a specific style favored by corporate entities. It must be viewed as a social process, a result of decisions made by executives and other individuals. These decisions are reflected on how they are displayed and how they are used within the workplace.

This exhibition brings together two major art holdings in a museum setting using narratives often not seen when these same objects are displayed in their usual corporate surroundings. The exhibition is large in scale; still it accounts for only a small percentage of works from both collections. It does not claim to be a definitive documentation of the development of Philippine visual arts. Rather, the exhibit aims to present the strengths of these collections and the directions these two banking institutions have taken as patrons of the arts.

Patronage does not end with a purchase. Corporations continue to invest using financial and material resources to care for their collections. They take on this task to ensure that investments in art are properly managed and, more importantly, to acknowledge their corporate responsibility and as a service to the community.

The exhibition is curated by Victoria Herrera and Albert Avellana and is made possible with the cooperation of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. The exhibition will run until Sept. 30. Viewing hours are from Tuesdays to Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

BPI 155
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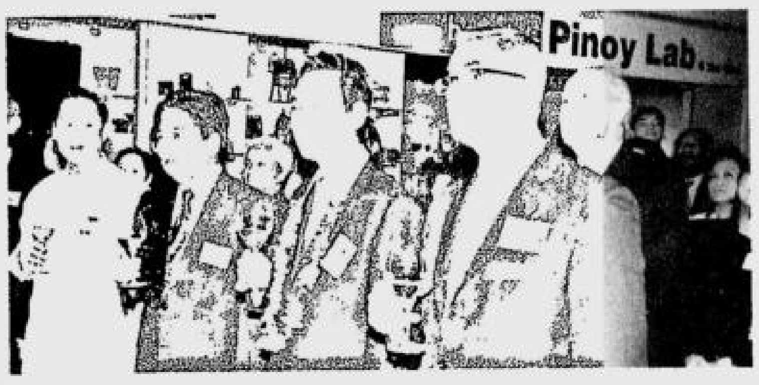
> The exhibition is large in scale; still it accounts for only a small percentage of works from both collections

FROM left, BFB president Alfonso Salcedo, BPI vice president Cesar Tejada, BPI SVP Nita Claravall, BPI vice president Romy Dilag and SVP Jesus Razon

FROM left, BPI Family Savings Bank president Alfonso Salcedo, Jr.; MasterCard Country Manager Poch Villa-Real; BPI VP and BPI Direct Savings Bank president Raul Dimayuga; BPI SVP Teresita Tan; and MasterCard SVP for Southeast Asia Ajay Bhalia



FROM left, Joselito Dy Campos, chair of Metropolitan Museum; BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr; DBS Chairman Koh Boon Hwee; BPI Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and BPI Director Xavier P. Loinaz

FROM left, BPI president Aurelio R. Montinola III with MET Chairman Joselito Dy Campos, National Artist for Visual Arts Benedicto Cabrera or Bencab, National Artist for Painting Arturo Luz, National Artist for Sculpture Napoleon Abueva, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr., DBS Chairman Koh Boon Hwee, and BPI Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala III

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BPI reaps EuroMoney Award ‘Best Bank in the Philippines’

BPI 155 FOCUSING ON YOUR FUTURE.

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) reaped the worldwide banking laurel, “Best Bank in the Philippines” from the Euromoney Award last July 4th in Hong Kong together with 25 banks in other countries. The award was given in recognition of excellence in managing cash and innovative management solutions to financial problems.

A benchmark for high-quality products and services across all areas of commercial and investment banking, the Euromoney Awards set the standards for banking and capital market excellence in global categories among the top ranking financial institutions and across 110 individual countries around the word.

In making its “Awards for Excellence,” Euromoney focuses on the quality of management, strategic focus, profitability and innovation of the banks it reviews. The Awards Panel includes a selection of high level international financial experts as well as Senior Editors and the chairman of Euromoney.

Being in a country that continually suffers from problematic fiscal deficit, international credit downgrades, political uncertainties, and higher oil prices, BPI has been able to grapple with and hurdle the problems with prudent and conservative strategies in bank offerings, dealings, and in the management of financial assets.

Apart from the Euromoney award, BPI has received many awards due to its many diverse financial offerings. This year, it was awarded Best Local Cash Management Bank in the Philippines for 2006 by Asiamoney. It was also awarded the banking leader in remittance by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) because of its Expat Pinoy Program of Direct Savings Bank and BPInoy Remittance. Other awards include “Best Retail Bank in the Philippines” by the Asian Banker Excellence in Retail Financial Services Award; “Triple A Best Cash Management Bank for the Philippines” by The Asset; “the Most Trusted Brand in the Bank and Investment Fund Company” categories of the 8th Annual Reader’s Digest Asia Trusted Brands Survey; and the five awards given by the Development Bank of the Philippines: “The Most Outstanding Participating Financial Institution” under three out of four priority areas/sectors for development: Infrastructure and Logistics Development Award, Social services Development Award, Environmental Development Award; and Hall of Famer for two categories: the Industrial Guarantee and Loan Fund program and the other for All Around Performance for the bank’s consistent outstanding performance under these categories in the last five years.

Recognition of BPI as the best bank by Euromoney, an international body is proof of reliable and dependable market response to BPI’s committed services. BPI won together with other banks best in their own countries like the ANZ in Australia, Banco de Brasil in Brazil, RBC Capital markets in Canada, Banco de Chile, Danske Bank in Denmark, Bank of China in Hong Kong, OTP Bank in Hungary, Landsbanki Islands in Iceland, ICICI in India, Bank Danamon in Indonesia, Bank Hapoalim in Israel, Korean Exchange Bank, Banorte in Mexico, ANZ in New Zealand, Den norske Bank in Norway, Alfa Bank in Russia, Saudi British Bank in Saudi Arabia, DBS Bank in Singapore, Standard Bank in South Africa, SEB in Sweden, Chinatrust in Taiwan, Bangkok Bank in Thailand, Turkiye Garanti Bankasi in Turkey and the Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Emirates Bank in the United Arab Emirates.

The Rewards of Saving Up with BPI

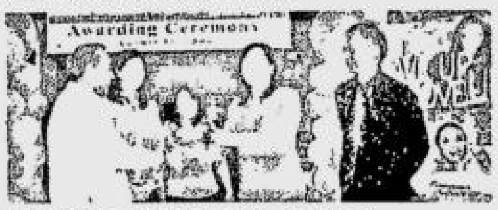
BPI rolled out the red carpet for the first and second draw winners of “BPI Save Up, Move Up” raffle. Held at Viking Cars Inc in Makati, BPI and Volvo Cars executives took time off from their busy schedules to attend the celebration.

Rosalinda and Jonathan Aleta, lucky depositors from BPI Cabanatuan, were all smiles as their names were announced as the first draw winners of the raffle, with BPI doubling their deposit balance as their prize. With an additional P500,000 in their BPI account, the future could only look better for the Aletas. Second draw winners Leocadio and Marie Grace Nittorreda were likewise ecstatic as they were called to receive their prize—a brand new luxurious Volvo V50 station wagon. The Volvo V50 features the Volvo Intelligent Vehicle Architecture, which will definitely provide unmatched driving safety for the Nittorredas.

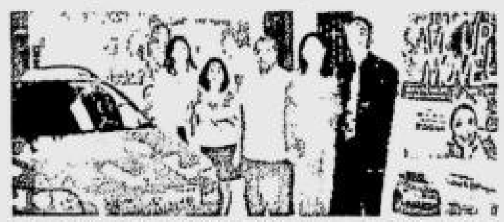
It was such exciting news for everyone to hear that the grand prize is yet to be drawn this October. At stake is a studio unit at The Columns Ayala Avenue, one of Makati’s most vibrant condominium residences. The lucky winner will surely appreciate its first-class amenities, as well as priceless advantages, like a magnificent panorama of the city and distant mountains, and a glorious view of Manila Bay. Strategically located at the corner of Ayala and Buendia Avenues, The Columns Ayala Avenue is a stone’s throw away from the Makati business district, shopping malls and other leisure destinations, making it an ideal choice, not only as a second home, but as an investment as well.

The “BPI Save Up, Move Up” promo is open to all peso and foreign currency individual account holders who open or maintain savings, checking or time deposit accounts in BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank. Every P5,000 deposit in savings or checking, or P25,000 in a time deposit entitles a depositor to get one electronic raffle coupon.

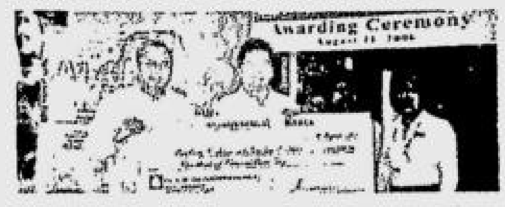
BPI depositors still have a chance to own a posh studio unit in The Columns Ayala Avenue this October. So, save up with BPI today!



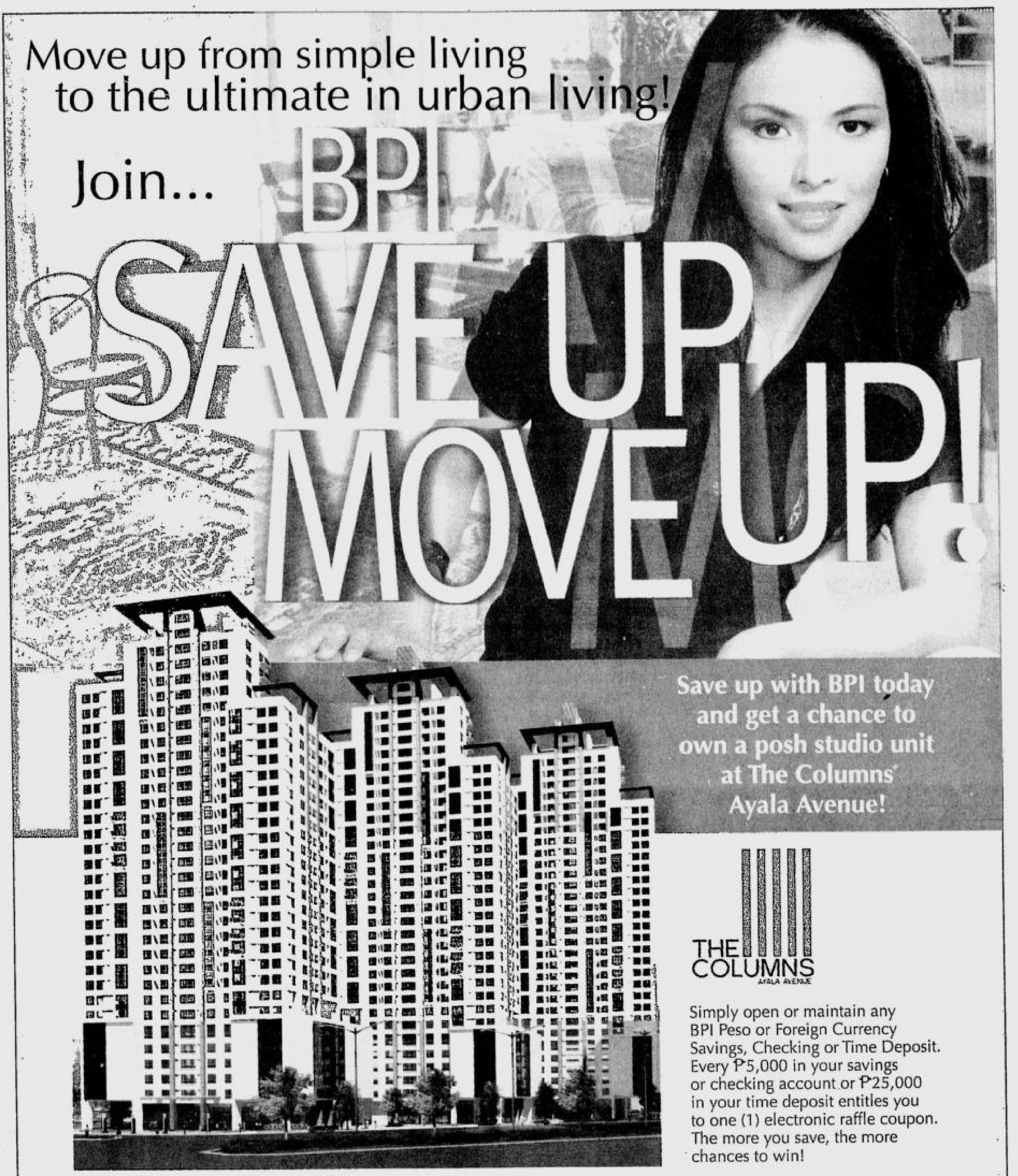
FROM the conventional to the most sophisticated wheels! Congratulations to the Nittorredas for winning the stylish Volvo V-50 in the ‘BPI Save Up, Move Up’ promo. Present in the awarding were, from left: BPI SVP Jesus Razon, Volvo Cars VP Lyn Buena, Volvo Cars EVP Rose Dimalanta, representing the Nittorredas were BPI executives VP Maricris San Diego and VP Brenno Dytoc.



VOLVO Cars executives showcase the luxurious Volvo V-50 to BPI executives.



From the expected to the exceptional! ‘BPI Save Up, Move Up’ promo has doubled the deposit balance of the Aletas. Present in the awarding celebration were, from left: BPI SVP Jesus Razon, ‘BPI Save Up, Move Up’ 1st draw winner Jonathan Aleta, BPI SVP Imelda Trillo, and BPI senior manager Arlene de Guzman.


Move up from simple living
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Save up with BPI today and get a chance to own a posh studio unit at The Columns’ Ayala Avenue!

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Simply open or maintain any BPI Peso or Foreign Currency Savings, Checking or Time Deposit. Every ₱5,000 in your savings or checking account or ₱25,000 in your time deposit entitles you to one (1) electronic raffle coupon. The more you save, the more chances to win!

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Earn higher interest than regular savings, plus, bonus interest when you don’t withdraw in a month.

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Regular Passbook Savings, Platinum For Kids, Multi-Earner Plus, Express Teller Checking, Regular Checking, BPI Direct Savings, BPI Direct Checking, Express Dollar Savings, US Dollar Passbook Savings, Third Currency Passbook Savings, Peso Time Deposits and Foreign Currency Time Deposits.

Promo period: March 1 to September 30, 2006. See flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0420 Series of 2006.

PLUS! Get a free BPI Electronic Gift Card worth ₱1,000 for every ₱300,000 additional or new deposit in savings or checking account.

Promo period: March 1 to September 30, 2006. See mailers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1117 Series of 2006.

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Congratulations to our second SAVE UP, MOVE UP winners!

Congratulations to Leocadio and Marie Grace Nittoreda, depositors of BPI Main branch!
They have won a stylish VOLVO V50 in the July draw of BPI SAVE UP, MOVE UP!
You still have a chance to win a posh studio unit at The Columns Ayala Avenue in the final draw.
So save up with BPI today!

BPI Express: New BPI Branches Take Banking to the Next Level

From page F1

"People immediately comment on how the BPI Express appears delightfully different from the traditional branch. But that's only one part of what we're doing differently in this branch. More than its physical appearance, BPI Express will give customers a totally different service experience," says Jojo Ocampo, BPI Senior Vice President.

The difference becomes apparent once you step into the BPI Express branch. Aside from the ATM that's already a staple in bank branches, BPI Express houses phone banking and Internet banking facilities. These machines are situated right at the entrance, so it's a quick get-in-and-get-going routine for those who are adept with self-service transactions. But even those who have not tried these machines can use them, with the assistance of the BPI Express Services Counselor, who will greet and assist customers as they enter.

Ocampo adds, "We didn't want to just put these machines in the BPI Express branch without a dedicated person on-hand to do demonstrations and coach customers on how to use them. If it's your first time, you may not be comfortable doing it by yourself. The BPI Express Service Counselor will do tutorials on how to use the phone and the Internet, until customers gain the confidence to use these channels in the comfort of their own homes or offices."

BPI Express is able to provide fast service because of its specialized range of products and services. These are deliberately limited to the more common transactions, to ensure that lines at the teller are fast-moving and kept to a minimum, much like the concept of express lanes in the supermarket. BPI customers who require the full range of services and more complicated transactions need not be concerned however, since their needs can be adequately handled at BPI's regular branches.

Completing the facilities of BPI Express is the financial counseling zone, where clients can seek advice regarding their savings, financing and investment needs through one-on-one discussions with the branch officers and staff. This zone features separate work stations, instead of the traditional low counter where several customers are attended to at a time. This set up allows for more customer privacy, whether the client is simply opening an ATM savings account or deliberating more critical decisions like a housing loan application. BPI Express personnel stationed in this zone have been trained to analyze customer requirements and provide the best alternatives to meet these demands.

Indeed, the facilities and services provided by the BPI Express branch have been carefully considered, to take branch service to further heights. Whether a customer prefers electronic banking, over-the-counter servicing, or is seeking professional financial advice, he can get the satisfaction he needs from a BPI Express branch. And he doesn't need to go far, with several BPI Express branches already open to serve the public: Shaw-Acacia Lane, Espana-Blumentritt, Medical Plaza, Kamias, Munoz, G. Araneta, A. Bonifacio, Santol, Las Pinas Almanza Uno, Quezon Avenue-D. Tuazon, JP Rizal-San Miguel, Talon-Almanza, BF Homes President Avenue, D. Macapagal-Aseana, Intrepid Plaza-Libis, Davao-Bajada and Gaisano-Tabunok. More BPI Express branches will be opened soon, as BPI remains committed to take banking to the next level.

BPI EXPRESS Sales Counselor Judy D. Perez, of BPI Express Sucat, Parañaque branch; Councilor Jose Enrico Golez; Parañaque Mayor Hon. Florencio M. Bernabe, Jr.; BPI president Aurelio Montinola III; renowned fashion designer Rhett Eala; and well-known media personality Cito Beltran

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BPI Express launch

From page F1

ties Paolo Abrera and Angel Jacob, the event showcased the clean lines and modern atmosphere of the spanking new BPI Express Branch. Further highlighting the fresh feel of BPI Express, guests were encouraged to come in all-white outfits, which allowed them to blend with the lightness of the Express Branch. And, of course, the launch introduced the guests to the distinguishing features of BPI Express.

In his speech during the launch, BPI President Aurelio R. Montinola III said, "More than just a branch facelift, BPI Express redefines banking convenience and service as demanded by the evolving consumer lifestyle of our clients. It combines all our traditional and alternative channels under one roof, and yet gives the client the feeling of space and warmth as we welcome our convenience-conscious mobile customers."

BPI Express celebrity hosts for the inauguration Paolo Abrera and Angel Jacob talk about the many features and services of the new branch.

BPI @ 155: Focusing on your Future

ANNIVERSARY OFFERS

In celebration of its 155th anniversary, the Bank of the Philippine Islands is offering these exclusive promos this August!

- Start saving for your future! Open a BPI and/or a BPI Family Savings Bank Time Deposit, and enjoy special rates. Get a 7.5% fixed rate for 5 years when you get a BPI Family Savings Bank Plan Ahead 5-year Time Deposit. Enjoy a 0.155% promo premium over regular rates when you get a BPI/BPI Family Savings Bank 1 to 3 Year Time Deposit or a 182-day Auto Renew Time Deposit. All with a minimum placement of PhP155,000. Promo from August 1 to 31, 2006.
- Purchase wisely and use your BPI Express Cash Card to be one of the three (3) billers to win an Apple iPod MP3 (1GB) player with a cumulative spending of at least PhP2,000 at POS merchant. Promo from August 1 to 31, 2006.
- Maximize your ATM Card and be one of the 155 BPI Express Payment System users to win exciting prizes including a trip for two (2) to Bangkok with PhP10,000 pocket money, with a minimum purchase of PhP1,550 in a single EPS transaction. Promo from August 1 to October 31, 2006.
- Make your dreams come true today! Apply for a housing loan - including Property Equity Loan - auto loan, or Grow Your SME Business Loan to get a 0.155% discount on all published rates. Your BFSB Property Equity Credit Line will get you a PhP1,550 rebate for every PhP1,550,000 increment in your Average Loan Ledger Balance. Promo from August 1 to 31, 2006.
- Invest in your future! 15 BPI Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF) and 155 BPI UITF investors will get a chance to win PhP15,500 and PhP1,550 cash each, respectively. Promo from August 1 to 31, 2006.
- Secure your future as well as your loved ones' by availing of Ayala Life's Protect 300, and be one of the 150 winners of SM Gift Certificates. Promo from August 1 to September 30, 2006.
- Get ahead in business! Transact with BIR or SSS through BPI's ExpressLink and get a chance to win premium prizes. Promo from August 1 to October 31, 2006.

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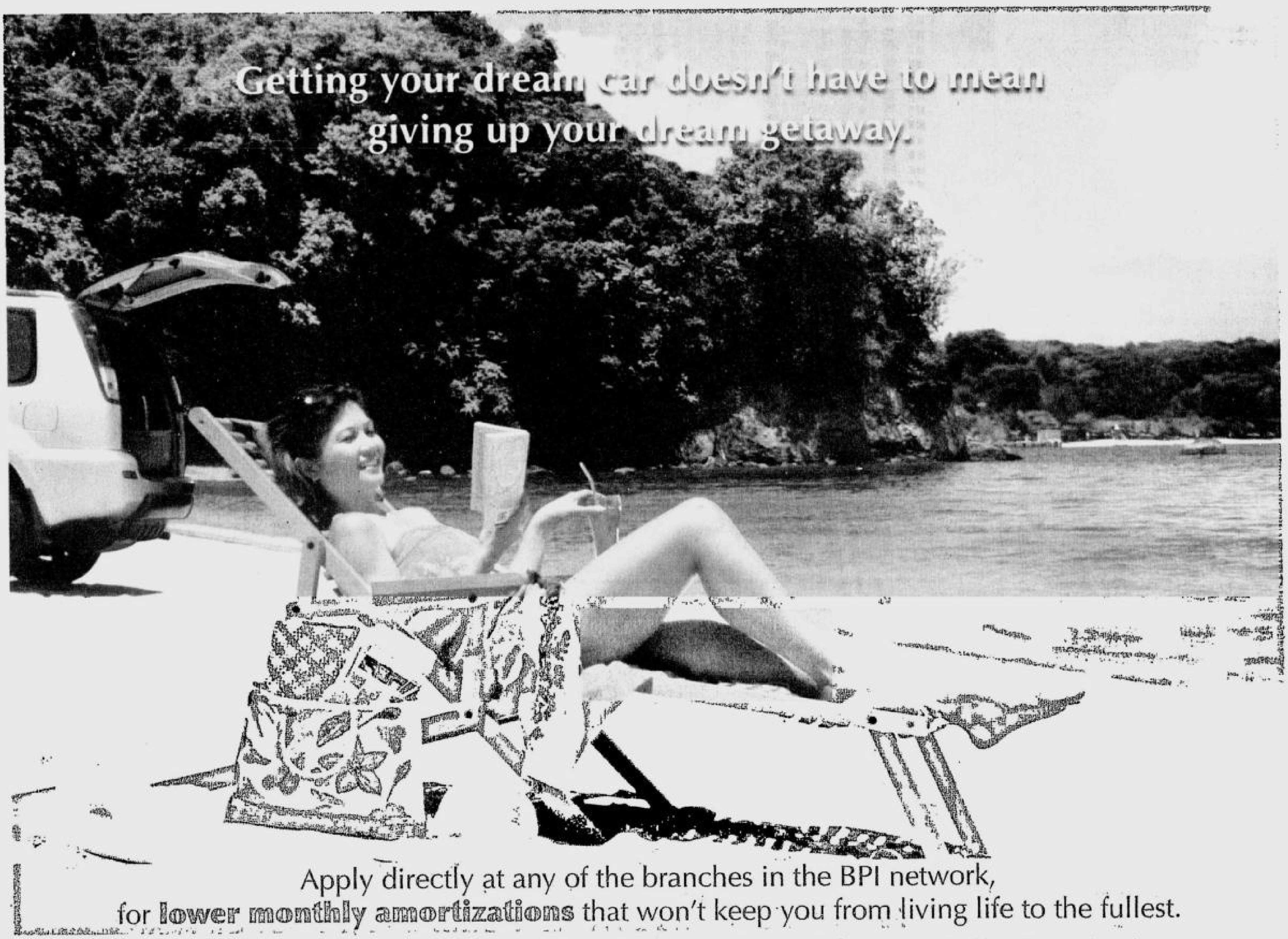
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We are Community Innovations, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ayala Land, focused on serving the property needs of urban achievers.

We offer residential communities that suit your fast-paced and active lifestyles. We blend innovation and comfort, beauty and function. We build developments with lots of green open spaces, combined with the convenience of the office, schools, malls and shops in close proximity.

Living in any of our residences lets you cash in on the fun. You can swim and play badminton. Take classes, join clubs, shape up at the gym, relax at the spa. Play poker or simply hang out. Go to parties and concerts. Shop. Stroll. Learn. Lounge. Work. Dine. Dance. Feel secure with wonderful new friends without leaving your old friends and family far behind.

Our communities are ideal for young families, with vast spaces for kids to run around. Children can spend hours playing, discovering, and exploring, while getting to know other kids.

And in today's financial climate, it's reassuring to know that Community Innovations is backed by the solid experience of Ayala Land in developing superior communities.

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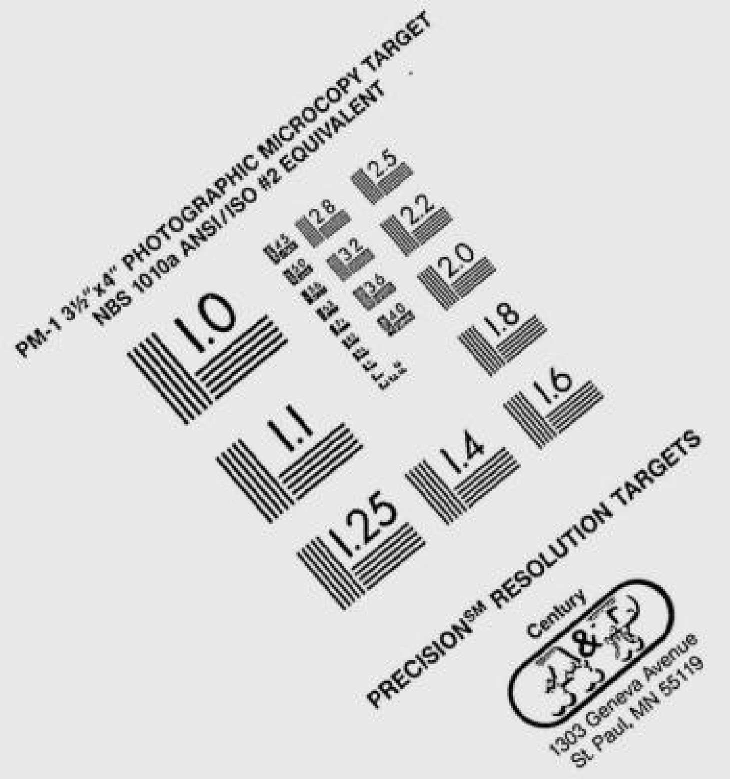
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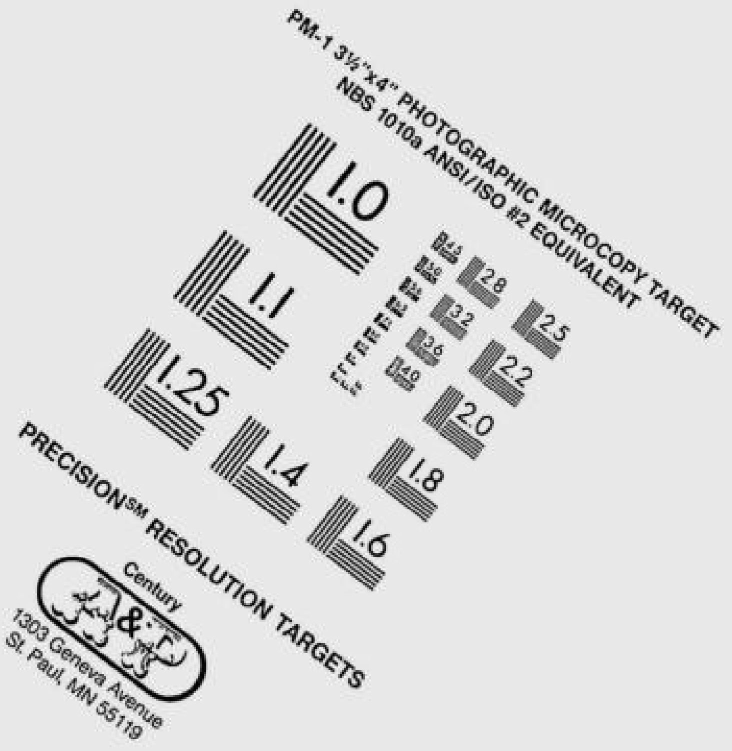
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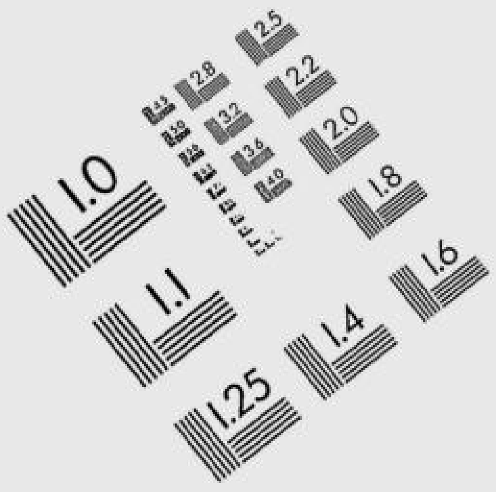
IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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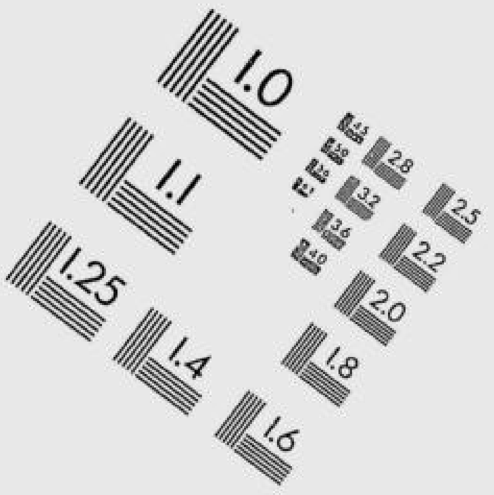
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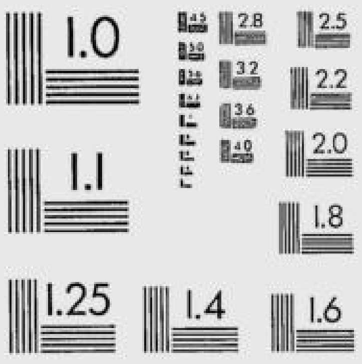
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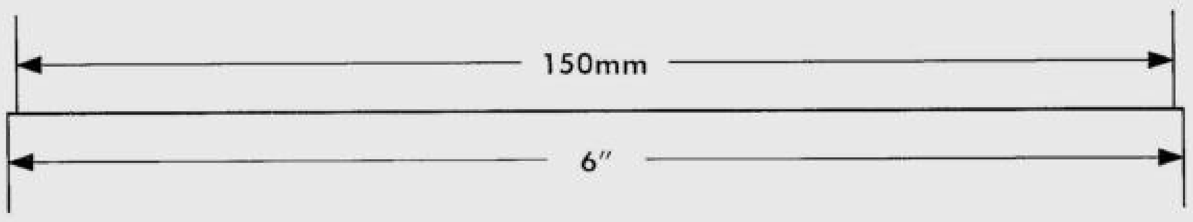

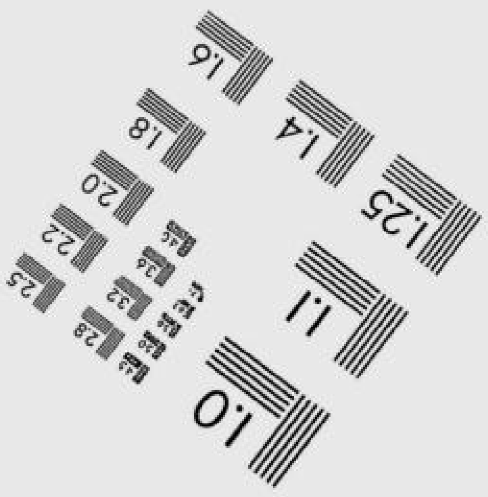
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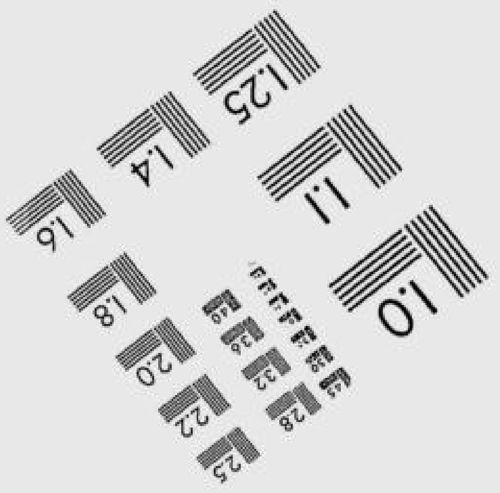
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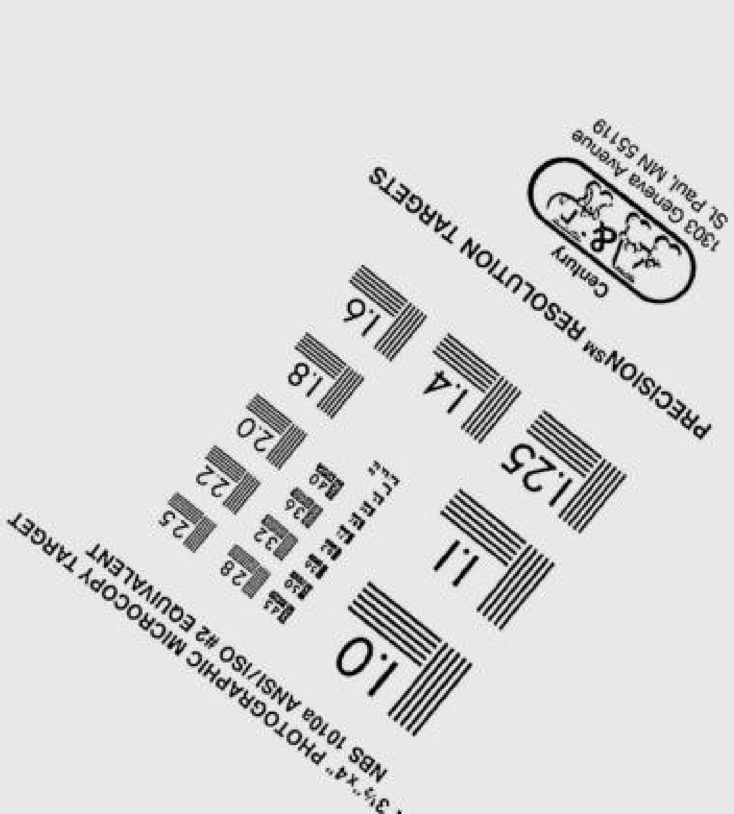
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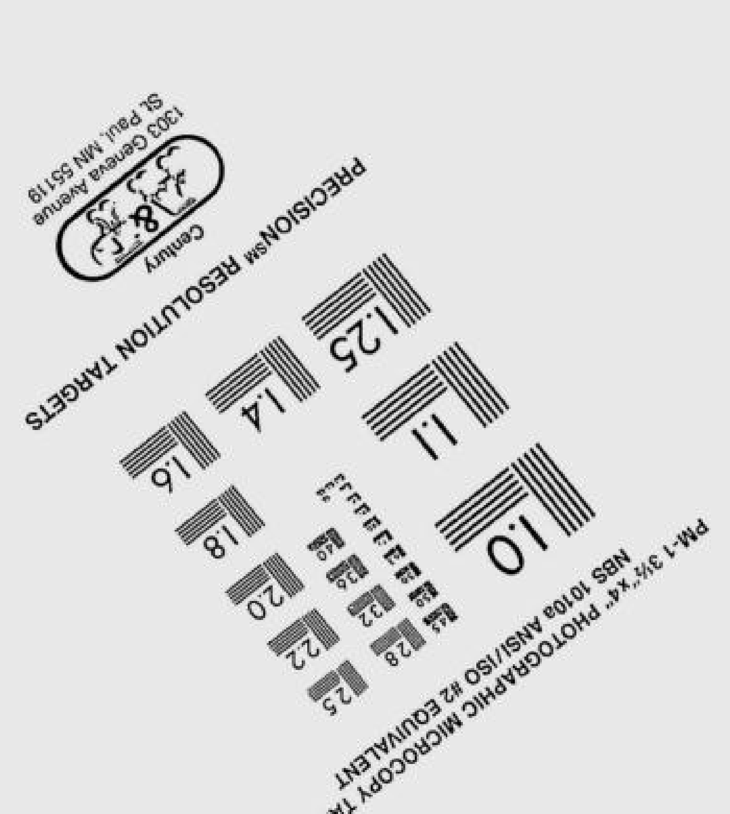
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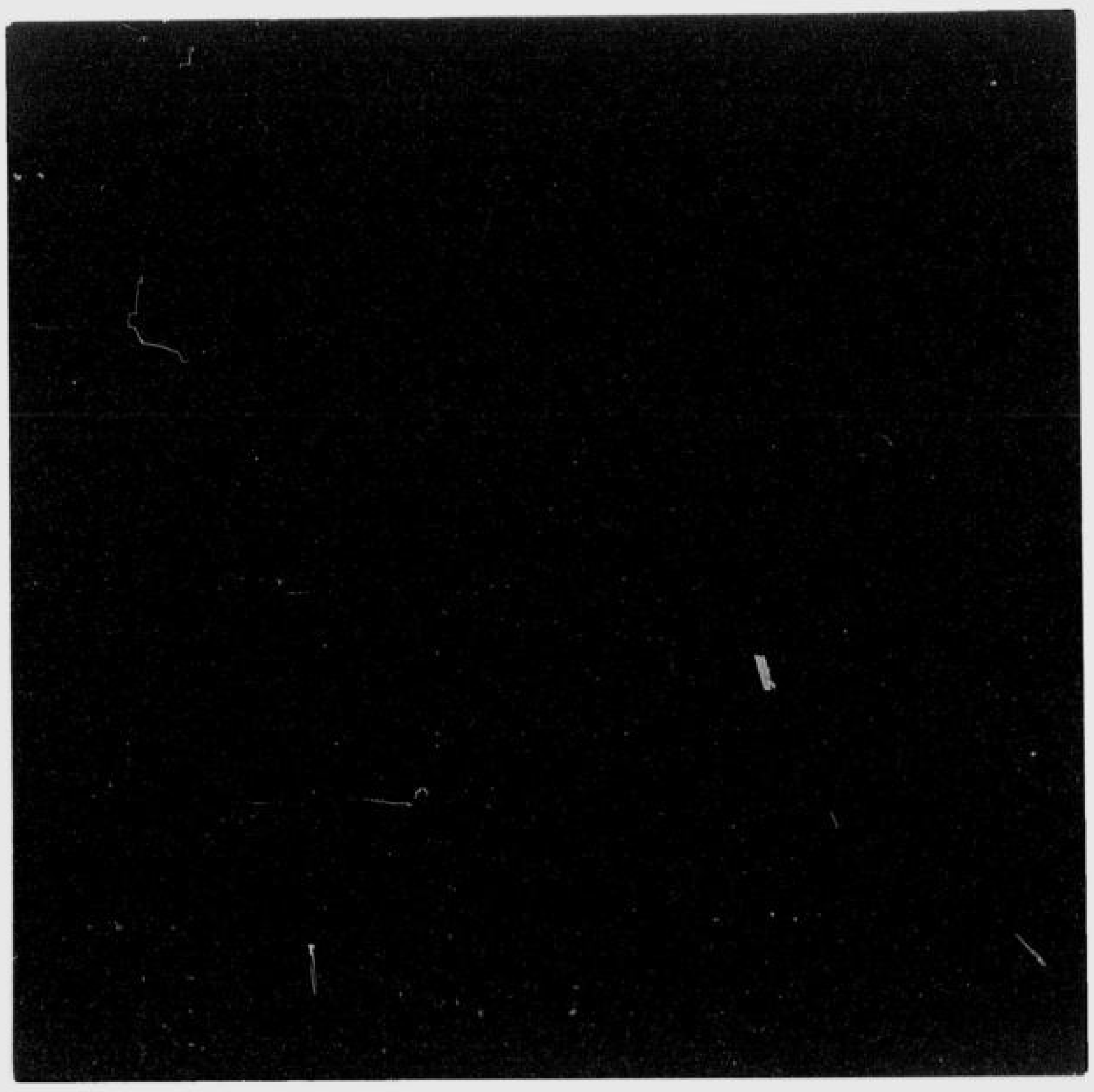

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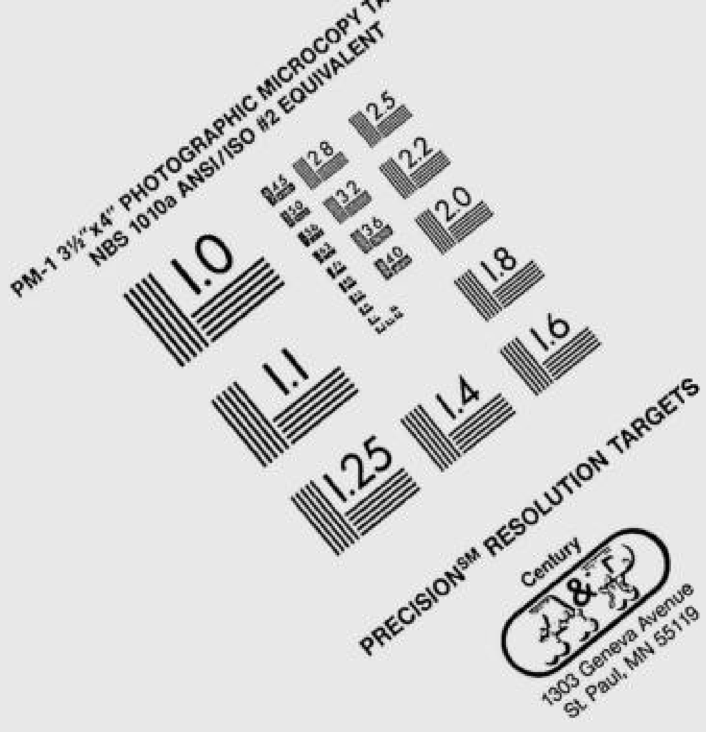
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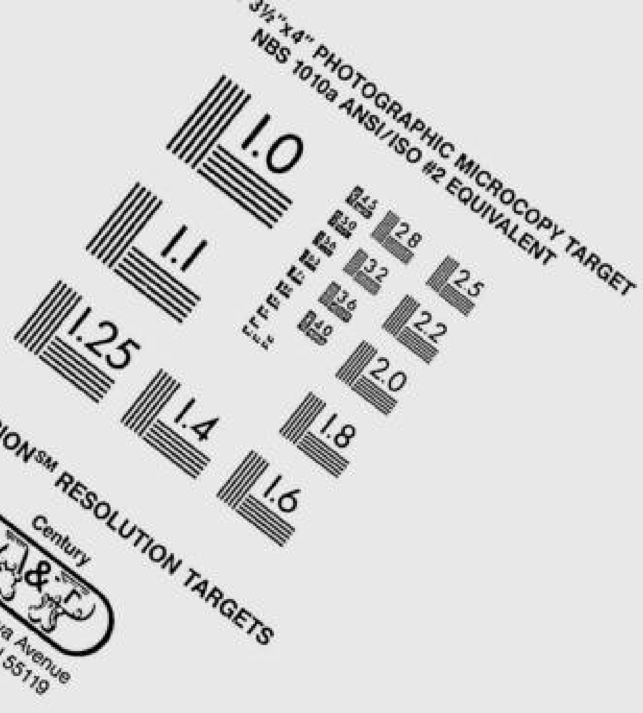
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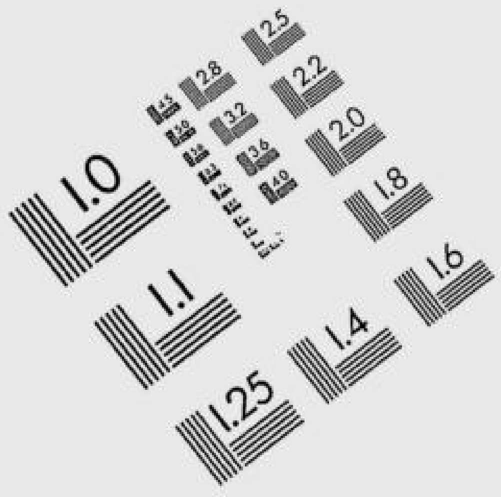
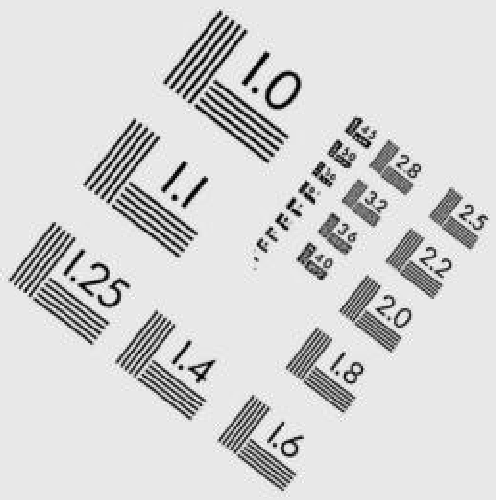
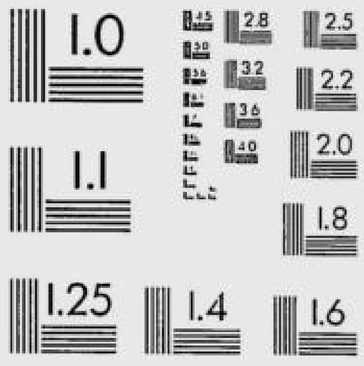
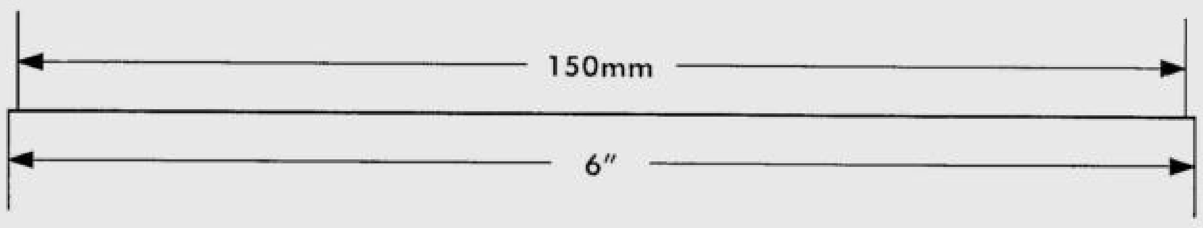
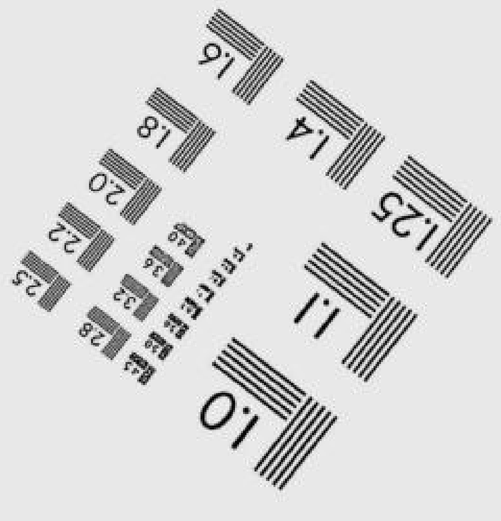
IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)











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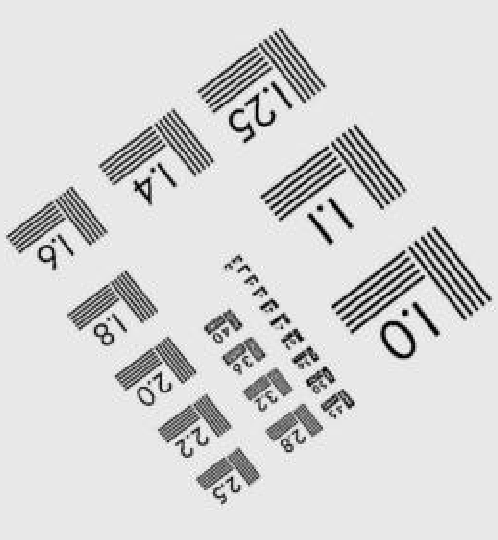

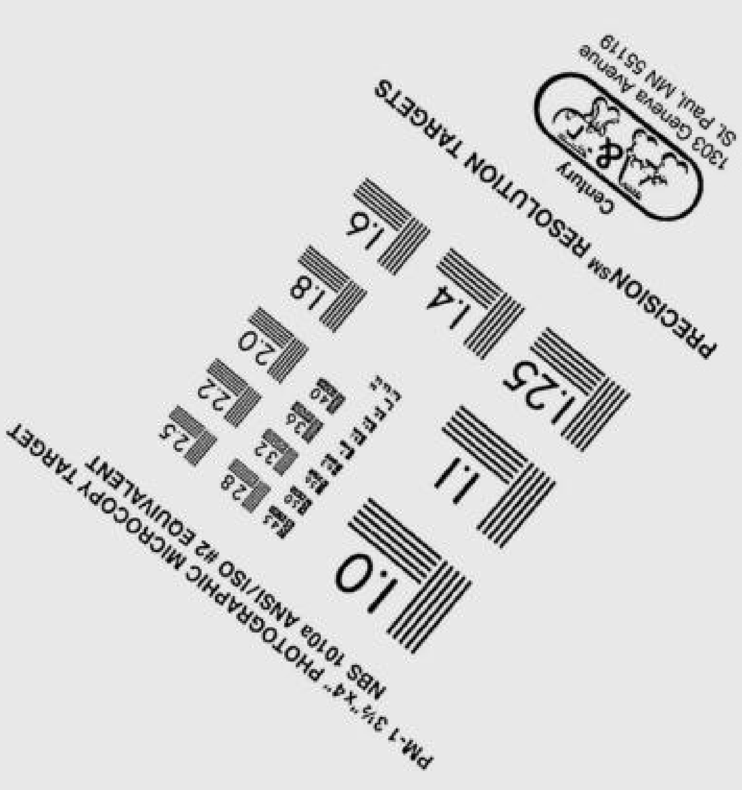
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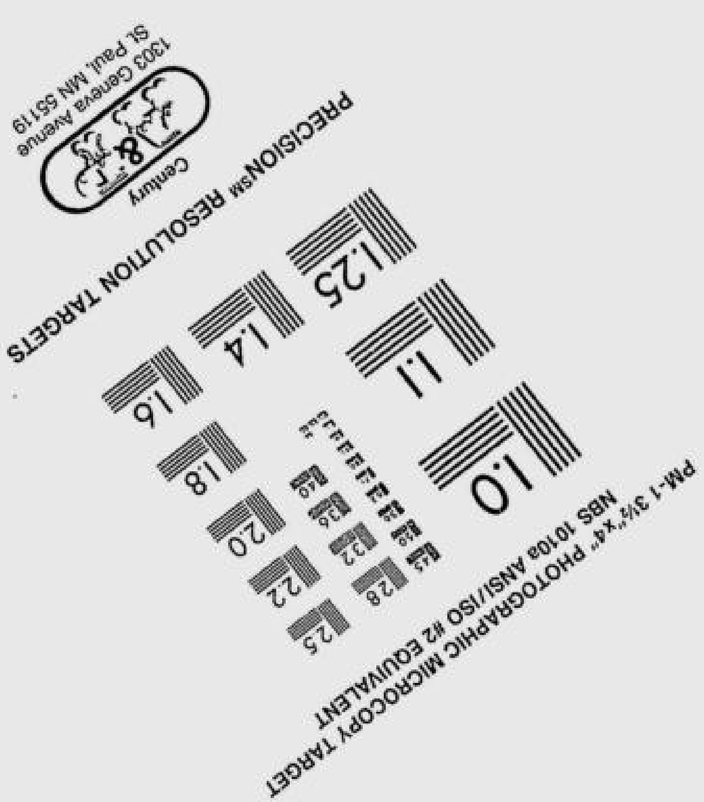
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